

ECHO IRELAND

Journal of the
Irish Radio Transmitters Society
January/February 2005

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The views expressed in Echo Ireland do not necessarily represent the views of the Society or the Editor

**Deadline for next edition
March 25th**

IRTS AGM Weekend 2005

IRTS Dinner

Saturday March 12th

Limerick Rally

IRTS AGM

Sunday March 13th

all at

Greenhills Hotel, Limerick

See Page 4

2m Counties Contest

**Easter Monday
March 28th**



Cork Schools contact International Space Station

On December 17th 2004, students from ten Cork primary schools were present when one child from each school got to speak to an astronaut on board the International space Station. See pages 14 and 15 for details.

Pictured at the event were: Sean Nolan EI7CD, Vice President of IRTS, Michael Ahern, Minister for Trade and Commerce, Prof. Paul Giller, Dean of Science at University College Cork and Rev Finbarr Buckley EI1CS from Cork Radio Club.

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News Bulletins and Readers

Sunday				
Dublin	1045	144.275	SSB	
Dublin	1100	7.043	SSB	Colm EI3H, Sean EI7CD, Gerry EI8CC
Wicklow	1130	7.068	SSB (as Gaeilge)	Paddy EI7GK
Dublin	1145	145.525	FM	Sean EI5GH, Brendan EI8IB
Dublin	1200	3.650	SSB	As 1100
Tipperary	2030	145.450	FM	Tommy EI7IT,
Dublin	2130	145.525	FM	As 1145
Monday				
Cork	2000	145.750	FM	Con EI7DJB, Vincent EI7HN
Limerick	2000	145.725	FM	Brian EI9AL, Tony EI2AW
Louth	2000	145.500		Peter EI4HX, Thos EI2JD
Galway	2000	145.625		Aengus EI4ABB, Richard EI5GC
Tuesday				
Waterford	2130	145.650	FM	John EI8JA, Robbie EI8FZB

Willie Dumbleton EI9AHB Silent Key

Those involved in amateur radio for some time will be very sorry to hear of the death of Willie Dumbleton.

Willie was a technical assistant at the Dunsink Observatory from 1973 to his retirement in March 2004.

He was very involved with the re-organisation of the monthly public viewing nights at the observatory and also in the re-commissioning of the restored Birr reflector telescope.

On his retirement Willie went to live in France where he died suddenly on 18th January.

Brendan McWilliams who writes a weather associated column in the Irish Times devoted his whole column on Wednesday 26th January to a very nice piece which he wrote on Willie.

Many long established amateurs will remember Willie's father, Harry EI4S who was well known in amateur radio circles in EI some time past. To Willie's family we extend our deepest sympathy.

May Liam and Willie both rest in peace.

Terry Crosbie EI9AR Silent key

Terry Crosbie EI9AR from Ballinasloe passed away on 6th November 2004. Our deepest sympathy to his family. May he rest in peace.

Liam Lyons, EI2FB R.I.P.

Liam Lyons EI2FB passed away peacefully on Saturday January 22nd at the South Infirmary/Victoria Hospital in Cork.

Liam was an active amateur and operated exclusively on CW from his home in Crosshaven, Co. Cork.

He was a volunteer Morse tester for the IRTS having served time as a marine radio officer.

We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife Siobhán and children Sean, Deirdre and Miriam. He was laid to rest on Tuesday January 25th.



Ronald McGrath EI6GO - Silent Key

It is with profound sadness and regret that we heard of the unexpected passing of EI6GO Ronald Mc Grath from Clonmel on the 13th November 2004. We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife Brenda, his sons Patrick and Kevin, his daughters Orla, Fiona and Nuala, relatives and friends on their sad loss.

Known far and wide as EI6 Golden Oldie, Ronnie made his entrance to radio through C.B. in the late seventies. This led him to sit the theory exam and he was given the callsign of EI5CPB in early 1986. He successfully took the Morse in 1988 and upgraded to EI6GO. He was a great supporter of the news service both on HF and VHF and in particular the Nuacht as Gaeilge. He was one of the founding members of and a recent vice-chairman of the Tipperary Amateur Radio Group. A former manager in a local cash and carry, in his later years Ronnie did a lot of charitable work for which we are sure he is being presently rewarded. May he rest in peace. did dah di dah dit rare Clonmel.

Albert Latham EI6AS - Silent Key

The passing, after a long illness, of Albert EI6AS at Our Lady's Hospice, Harold's Cross in Dublin on Wednesday December 1st 2004 will leave a large void in the world of radio experimenters in EI.

Albert had a long time involvement in radio in EI and served on the IRTS committee for many years and acted as the Society's VHF manager for a lengthy period.

Up to his recent illness he read the two metre SSB Radio News each Sunday from his QTH in Clondalkin. This is a job he had been doing for almost thirty years.

Albert was what could be described as a true experimenter. He was constantly expanding his knowledge in new and exciting aspects of the hobby and he was always seeking to do things just that little bit better. New aspects of the hobby were regarded by him as challenges. He was technically very competent and he was always to the fore in coming to terms with new technologies and in assisting others to explore new modes and methods. His main interest was in the bands of 28 MHz and upwards but particularly in 50 MHz and 144MHz. He constantly monitored these bands and acted as an alert for openings on them by ringing round a group of friends in the Dublin area whenever they occurred.

He was one of the first stations in EI to get involved with ATV on 70 cm and later on 24 cm and also on 3 cm. He was well known across the water in Wales from using the GB3TM repeater on the Isle of Anglesey.

Albert was a Londoner and received his early training in the RAF and when demobbed he entered the plastics industry in



the UK and then came to work in Ireland and worked in both Dublin and Monaghan as an electrical/electronics engineer in that industry.

He later got involved in the commercial two-way radio business and worked in the technical area until retirement.

He was a most approachable person and was more than willing to share his knowledge with others and often lectured at clubs. Lately he got involved in LF experimentation despite the restrictions of his city QTH

He will be sadly missed by all who had the privilege to know him.

To his family Sally, his son, daughters and grandchildren we extend our deepest sympathy. May he rest in peace.



Phil EI2CT - Silent Key

Phil Connell EI2CT passed away suddenly in December shortly after returning from a trip to the U.S. Phil was farmer in Knightstown in County Meath and got his licence in the late sixties under the guidance of Shane MacNamee EI2A together with Philip EI9P and Pat Timmons EI5CE

Phil was a great all rounder and could turn his hand to anything from overhauling tractors to building radios.

He will be sadly missed by his wife Esther to whom we extend our deepest sympathy.

IRTS AGM Weekend in Limerick

Final arrangements are now almost complete for the IRTS AGM Dinner and Rally at the Greenhills Hotel in Limerick on March 12/13th.

Anyone intending to attend the AGM Dinner should contact Paul EI6FE to reserve a seat.

Please do not leave it to the last minute as the organisers need a reasonably accurate forecast of numbers attending. The menu is printed elsewhere on this page.

Last years dinner was a great success and this years should be even better.

Who can forget last years raffle!

Tickets cost €30.00.

Rooms in the hotel have been pre booked by LRC and cost €100.00 B&B double and €70.00 single.

Please remember to mention the Limerick Radio Club when booking as the hotel is full.

Confirmed traders attending from the UK are Icom UK, Yaesu UK, Linear Amp UK as well as BHI International, suppliers of well known DSP products.

The regular local representatives will also be present, namely Cellcom, Long Communications, Southeast Communications, Sean Martin as well as Back from the Future from Dublin, suppliers of computers and gadgets as frequently seen on TV3.

The rally hall has been significantly increased in size which should add to the comfort of the venue.

There will be some unbeatable raffle prizes on offer, see the Limerick Club web site for further details:
www.qsl.net/ei4lrc

Parking facilities at the hotel are good and a good selection of food and drink will also be available all day.

The doors will open at 1100 which will allow plenty of time to pick up the bargains before the IRTS AGM which starts at 1430.

Enquiries on any aspect of the week-ends events should be addressed to Limerick Radio Club Chairman, Paul Kirkby EI6FE on 061-360122.

Irish Radio Transmitters Society Annual General Meeting March 13th 2004 Greenhills Hotel, Ennis Road, Limerick

Members are hereby notified that the Annual General Meeting of the Irish Radio Transmitters Society will be held at 1430 on Sunday March 13th 2003 at the Greenhills Hotel, Ennis Road, Limerick.

Rule 23.1 requires that the committee shall, at least 28 days notice prior to the Annual General Meeting, send to all paid up members a list showing the nominees for the offices of President and Vice-President and eleven committee positions.

The following are the Committee's nominations;

President	Sean Donelan EI4GK		
Vice-President	Fr. Finbarr Buckley EI1CS		
Committee			
EI2CA	Paul Martin	EI4HX	Peter Grant
EI2GN	John Ketch	EI5DI	Paul O’Kane
EI2HX	Pat Fitzpatrick	EI7CD	Sean Nolan
EI2JC	Noel Walsh	EI8IU	Brian Canning
EI3GV	Brendan De hOra	EI9HX	Pat O’Connor
EI3IX	Joe Fadden		

The names of other members eligible and willing to serve as President, Vice-President or as Committee members shall be added to the list upon receipt of nominations in writing, by any ten paid-up ordinary members in the case of a nominee for the Presidency or Vice-Presidency, or by any two paid-up ordinary members in the case of a nominee for any of the eleven committee positions. (Rule 23.2)

See Page 26 of the current Year Book for all the rules relating to elections.

IRTS AGM Dinner Saturday 12th March 2004 at 8 p.m.

Cream of Vegetable Soup, Herb Croutons

Sweet Melon Trio, Watermelon Sorbet with an Orange & Passion Fruit Jus

Grilled Goats Cheese, Roasted Pepper Salsa with Fresh Basil

* * * *

8oz Sirloin Steak (cooked to your liking)

with oven roasted vine tomatoes, onion rings and chunky chips

Roast Breast of Chicken stuffed with Cream Cheese & Roasted Pine nuts Creamed Baby Leeks and a Red Wine Jus

Oven Baked Fillet of Salmon, Saute Baby Spinach & Fresh Mussel Beurre Blanc

Above served with Market Fresh Vegetables & Potatoes of the evening

* * * *

A Rich Dark Chocolate Tarte with Vanilla Bean Ice - Cream

A Classic Lemon Tart with Home-made Raspberry Sorbet

Steamed Chocolate & Pear Pudding with Orange & Chocolate Sauce

* * * *

Freshly Brewed Tea or Coffee

€30.00 per person...

Vegetarians will be catered for on the night.

Contact Paul EI6FE on 061-360122 or Sean EI4GK on 01-2821420



From the Editor.....

Now, coming up to another annual general meeting, is a good time to remind readers that all the Society work is carried out on a purely voluntary and in most cases without even expenses incurred being claimed back.

This is as it should be, as I have long believed that the introduction of paid staff to voluntary organisations is not a desirable thing.

One of the down sides to a completely voluntary run organisation is the difficulty of dealing with poor performance. We are lucky that all the society's functions are currently being conducted in an efficient manner and complaints from members are few. However, there will always be slight hitches in even the best run organisations and reasonable people will deal with them in an appropriate manner. A simple phone call, email or letter will usually resolve the issue. None of us are perfect.

Every organisation will have disgruntled members and we are no exception. I have met people who are anti-IRTS for decades and when pressed cannot even remember why.

We are a democratic organisation and that means that not everyone's views can be accommodated. The removal of the CW requirement is a case in point. While we all may not agree with it, we have to accept reality and get on with it. Refusing to have anything further to do with those 'traitors' in IRTS is not a reasonable attitude to adopt. Yet we have such people amongst us.

One can excuse some people's attitude, especially those who have never been involved in the running of any organisation and who have a rosy view of what any committee can achieve. One cannot excuse those who should

know better. It recently came to my notice that a club newsletter was running with a recurring theme of criticism of the national society. I am not sure if this is representative of the club as a whole or just the individual concerned who should know better.

IRTS committee meetings are open to clubs who can either send an observer or if big enough can send a representative who has full committee member status. The club in question, while electing an IRTS representative, has chosen not to avail of that facility and consequently are unaware of the latest positions on issues that concern them.

It is the easiest thing in the world to sit back and apportion blame.

Much better to avail of the democratic process and try to put perceived problems right.

If you think the officers or committee are not doing the business, do something about it.

Address your issues on a national stage where your opinions can be debated objectively.

Those people who work hard on behalf of all experimenters in the country at least deserve that.

Included in this issue are the committee nominations for the coming year. These are required by rule to ensure that all positions are filled and that an AGM does not have to be abandoned due to failure to fill officer or committee positions. This was never intended to deny others a chance to get involved.

There is a mechanism in place that allows for nominations for all positions and gives everybody a chance to get their views heard.

Unfortunately we have not had a postal ballot for many years. The last one I remember was in the late eighties. Don't let that put you off. If you feel strongly, get stuck in.

We look forward to another good AGM in Limerick on March 12th where all members will have a chance to question or debate any issue under the committee report.

What a waste of time and effort compiling a report if it is just nodded through. A lot of expense is incurred in holding an AGM and people tend to forget why AGMs are held.

See you there.

Activity on 2 metres seems to have dropped in recent times, especially on FM. Most repeaters are fairly quiet and the simplex channels are even quieter.

The Spring 2m counties contest will be held this year on Monday March 28th.

Why not dust off that rig and give a few calls. Better still, why not get out portable, either alone or with a few friends?

There are still quite a few people trying to work the Worked EI Counties Award on 2 metres. Help them out.

See you in Limerick.

Dave EI4BZ



Royal Meath Radio Club CW Field Day Winners 1985.

Standing: ? from Cavan, Phil EI2CT, ? from Cavan, SWL Michael Duignan from Athboy, SWL David Keane from Trim.

Front: Bernard Walsh EI8DH Athboy, Michael Keane EI4FD Trim, Philip EI9P, John McEnroe EI2EQ RIP, Paddy Devine EI9FY.

Photo - Philip EI9P



On The Air

With Anthony O'Rourke EI2HY

Anthony O'Rourke EI2HY,
13 Hazel Road,
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ei2hy@eircom.net

Welcome to the first issue of 'On the Air' for 2005 and I hope everything survived the winter storms and Santa brought you that Yaesu FT DX 9000 you wanted!

As we say goodbye to 2004 it's interesting to look back on the average sunspot numbers for 2000 to 2004 which are:

	Average Sunspots	Average Solar Flux
2000	173.0	179.6
2001	170.3	181.6
2002	176.6	179.6
2003	109.2	129.2
2004	68.6	106.6

The decline towards Sunspot Minimum is more apparent now but even so the Sun threw up a few surprises at the start of 2005.

Just 40 minutes into the New Year a large Solar Flare erupted and the corresponding CME which impacted here on January 2nd produced a Planetary A-index of 33 which disrupted the HF bands, but the 'best' was yet to come! On Jan 11th Sunspot Group 720 was a mere speck on the Sun's surface, within 48 hours it had become almost as wide as Jupiter and of course started to show it's presence by launching some spectacular Solar Flares.

On Jan 16th, we had M8 followed by an X2-class Flares and just as the CME's from those impacted the Earth causing severe HF Blackouts and Auroras, yet another powerful X3 Class Flare erupted at 09:50UTC on Jan 17th.

This hurtled another CME our way leading to very depressed conditions on HF (and no doubt a few depressed ops looking for DX!). Just as it started to rotate out of view it left us a parting gift with a massive X7-class event on Thursday January 20th, one of the largest in the past year or so and it triggered the largest radiation storm in the current Solar Cycle!

Band Reports

Well I was hoping to be able to start off this report on excellent conditions for the month of December and how everyone was able to work the VU4 on 10 watts and so on but Mother Nature inter-

vened in the worst possible way when a magnitude 9.0 earthquake shook the seabottom at 00.58UTC on St Stephen's Day, December 26th, just off the coastline of Sumatra.

The resulting Tsunami has so far tragically resulted in well over 180,000 people dead or missing. If anything positive came out of it maybe it was the fact that there were amateur operators on from the Andaman's at the time and they proved invaluable in helping report back to mainland India and passing on emergency traffic.

This might help persuade Governments that Amateur Radio can prove invaluable in these circumstances!

Before the Tsunami, conditions were very poor for those of us still looking for the Andaman's for a 'new' one..

Congrats go to Frank, EI2GS, and others who might have made it into the log.

The team came on at around 18.30UTC on December 2nd using VU4BRI and initial signals were very poor as they were only using a dipole.

Most days I couldn't even hear them here but the addition of a Step IR Yagi led to being able to hear them a few times but persistent operating habits like working simplex at times or huge operating splits meant many an hour spent shouting to no one hi!

A group of Norwegians were active from Easter island (SA-001) in the Pacific between January 8 to 18 using the unique call signs 3G0YM (SSB) and 3G0YP (CW and Keyboard modes). Having heard them with very good signals most mornings it was frustrating when they choose to 'work' home and speak Norwegian all the time hi!

Although he's been stationed on Macquarie island (AN-005) since March 2004 it's only recently that Dave (home call VK3KR), VK0MT, has been showing up around 14.185 MHz to obviously instant howling mobs which is probably why he doesn't come on too often hi! Dave is just using an IC-706, a 45 metre long-wire and a 5 metre vertical whip so don't expect any big signal from Macquarie. QSL him direct only to JE1LET.

The Polish Amateur Radio Union (PZK) celebrates it's 75th Anniversary this year

and already plenty of unique special event call signs have been aired and expect more to be QRV until March 31st. Look out for these following calls: 3Z0IU, 3Z75GFI, 3Z75IWA, 3Z75Z, HF75PZK, SN75CYG, SN75FIH, SN75JMR, SN75NWN, SP75ECC, SP75HQJ, SP75JCN, SP75PNB, SP75SO, SP75TNX, SP75YST, SQ75FMU, SQ75HQQ and SQ7HQQ.

Also sporting unique prefixes are stations from Belgium who are authorised to use a double 'O' (Oscar Oscar) during 2005 to mark 175 years of their country's existence.

Dutch Hams used these following special calls during the last two weeks of December to commemorate the last two weeks of the Dutch Presidency of the European Union: PA6EU, PB6EU, PC6EU, PE6EU, PF6EU and PG6EU.

Staying with special event and prefix calls:

From Austria you could have worked OE80XRW which was active during December to celebrate 80 years of Broadcasting in Austria; amateurs are also using OE50 to celebrate 50 years of Independence.

Over in France TM7VM was on from December 16th to commemorate the opening of the Millau Viaduct in South France which at 343 metres at it's highest over the valley it crosses, is said to be the highest viaduct in the world.

Possibly still QRV by the time you read this should be EM60J from the Ukraine to mark the 60th Anniversary of World War II's Yalta Conference between Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin. All this to take place between February 4-11.

Going south to Tunisia a special event call, TS1WHC, was on air January 23rd for a week for the World Handball Championships held in Tunis while at the same time 3V8ST were on to celebrate Tunisian Childhood Week. Staying in Africa, members of the Pretoria Amateur Radio Club (South Africa's oldest club) are celebrating their 75th Anniversary this year and will use the call ZS75PTA during the rest of 2005.

Onto the 'magic' band now and not-

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

much has been heard here on **6m** during the past few weeks with just a solitary S51CK heard calling CQ at 12.25UTC on January 3rd. As I type this on the evening of January 19th I hear S59F, IK2DUV and IK2EAE all calling CQ at around 21.00UTC, possibly enhanced conditions from the ionising of the layers by the impact of the CME from the X3 Flare mentioned above? Mention must be made of the latest EI to obtain DXCC on **6m**. Alan, EI3EBB, becomes DXCC Certificate holder #758 and becomes the first 'old' Class B call sign to achieve this, so congrats all around.

Of course mention must also be made of the usual 'slims' that turned up to annoy us over the start of the New Year. 5A1A and HV0A continue to 'pop' up every so often while an unusual call was to be heard on from Equatorial Guinea (3C) when an operator claiming to be Vlad and sporting the call 3CAK was on from Bioko island (AF-010). After a few questions were asked, it turns out he was operating from a research vessel, the Djibloho, which is sailing under an Equatorial Guinea flag and the call used, 3CAK, is the ship's call and not an amateur call sign, still, 'Vlad' continues to attract the usual howling mob whenever he's on hi! Just next door, relatively speaking, a French operator, F5VHH, has been turning up for the past four years at this time claiming to be taking part in the Paris-Dakar Rally and uses various calls 'stroke' home call like 5A/F5VHH, 5T/F5VHH, CN/F5VHH, and so on. All these operations are illegal as these countries don't issue portable calls, only full calls so if you've worked him in any country don't waste time QSLing.

Up and Coming

Some bad news to start off with, the proposed expedition to Peter I island scheduled to start on January 20th has been delayed by at least three weeks as the ship that is taking the crew there is been renovated and will not be ready and re-registered in time. Here's the latest press release from the group at the time of writing:
"Our last press release announced a delay in the 3Y0X DXpedition to Peter I. We can now give you more specific information. The vessel we have chartered could not meet the original sailing date. The renovations and modifications taking place on the ship were not com-

pleted on schedule. K4UEE and LA6VM just returned from a visit to Chile that included an inspection of the team's chartered vessel, a meeting with the CEO of the charter company and the shipyard project supervisor, and an inspection of the team's equipment/supplies in our sea container stored in Punta Arenas. We were disappointed to see that the ship is still not ready. Work is progressing, however, and the charter company tells us they expect to be ready to sail for Peter I on February 10. We are not entirely confident the work can be completed on time, but the team is prepared to assemble in Punta Arenas, Chile on February 8. If all things go well, we will arrive at the island about 6-7 days after departure, depending on the route, weather, and ice conditions. Our landing operations will commence immediately once the weather allows for safe helicopter operation. We will first establish a safe, secure, and self-sufficient camp. Once this is complete we will begin setting up stations and antennas. We will be on the air as soon as possible, but this too is dependent on the conditions on the island. Blizzards, high winds, and low visibility are very real potential problems. We still plan to bring up 9 stations with amplifiers and a large array of antennas. Despite the schedule change, the team still hopes to spend 2 full weeks on the island and, very importantly, our entire team remains intact. The state of preparation of the ship, the location, complex logistics, weather, and sea ice are all challenges and largely out of our control. We will do all that is within our power to complete this DXpedition safely and within this new time frame. If all goes well and we sail as planned on February 10, we will return to Punta Arenas on March 10th".

Fingers crossed that it all comes together for the 3Y0X gang; at least we wouldn't be battling HF Blackouts and Auroras to work them hi! (famous last words!).

Also heading for the Antarctica area are Jean-Paul F5BU, and Nicolas F4EGX. They plan to arrive on Possession island, part of the Crozet islands Archipelago (AF-008) on February 5th and commence operating during their spare time from February 12th until the end of March (see last issue).

Hopefully still QRV by the time you receive this issue will be Dave, EI3IO, who'll be operating along with Manjurul, S21AM, from Bhola Island (AS-

140) Bangladesh with the special call S3A from February 4th to 7th.

Also in Asia Italian ops Antonio, I1ZB, and Alberto, I1QOD, will be QRV from Mongolia as JT1FCZ and JT1FCY from February 10-18. All operations will be from Mongolian club stations in Ulan Bataar or Lake Hovsgol, call area JT7.

Heading for warmer climes in February (as mentioned in the last issue) listen out for the Italian led 6O0CW and 6O0G expedition taking place on Feb 3 to 17 from Galkayo, Somalia and because of the delayed trip to Peter I the team have announced a revised proposed operating frequencies:

CW - 1820, 3505, 7005, 10115, 14055, 18095, 21055, 24910, 28055, 50100
SSB - 1840, 3790, 7050, 14210, 18140, 21270, 24960, 28450, 50110
RTTY - 3560, 7035, 10130, 14079, 18120, 21080, 24935, 28080 kHz.

Also heading for much warmer climes in Africa will be Jim G3RTE, well known QSL manager Phil G3SWH and two Belgian ops Jean ON8RA, and Adriano ON4GA, who head to Mauritania's (5T) capital Nauchachott with a time frame February 24th to March 4th and plan to use the call 5T0CW.

German ops Hans DL7CM, and Sid DM2AYO, plan to make a DXpedition to Botswana to operate as either A25/DL7CM or A25CM and A25/DL7CM, all this to happen between April 6 to 20.

Out in the Pacific will be some European ops who are doing a double hop between the North and South Cooks islands. They have probably gone QRT by the time you read this from their first stop of Aitutaki island (OC-083) in the South Cooks. Ops ZK1WET, ZK1XMY, ZK1SDE and ZK1SDZ are planned to be on from here between January 31st to February 17th before moving onto Manihiki Atoll (OC-014) part of the North Cooks from February 17 to 24. They then head back to Aitutaki island to finish up between February 24th to March 3rd. Cards go via M3SDE.

Hungarian ops Charlie HA8IB and Eli HA9RE left Budapest for the warmer climes of Oceania for their trip to Rotuma island (OC-060), part of the Fiji islands chain (3D2) but a separate DXCC entity. They will operate from

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

January 26th through to February 22nd with the call 3D2RE/R before heading back home via Fiji (OC-016) and the possibility of operating from there as 3D2RE.

V25WX will be the Antigua callsign for W1LR Larry and W4WX Bill from the Florida DXpedition Group, Inc February 21-24.

They will then go to Montserrat to operate from Volcano island February 24-March 2, as VP2MHS and VP2MHX for `LR and `WX respectively. They will concentrate on PSK31 and RTTY on 20, 17, 15, 12, 10 and 6M. QSL direct only and to their home callsigns.

JA9BV and JA3DYU will be vacationing in Vietnam and operating March 14-17 as XV3BV and XV3DYU, then Taiwan March 18-23 as BW2/JA9BV and BX2/JA3DYU.

Onto the Southern Indian Ocean and last activated five years ago in May 2000, Glorioso island (AF-011) is due to be activated this summer for two weeks between May 15th and the 30th by a team of 8 to 12 French operators. A large majority of the team will be made up of members who previously operated as TO4E from nearby Europa island. A French possession since 1892, the Glorioso islands lie at co-ordinates 11.30 S, 47.20 E and consist of two lushly vegetated coral islands (Ile Glorieuse and Ile du Lys) and three rock islets (South Rock, Verte Rocks and Wreck Rock) and together they all make up a total of 5 sq. km. Plans are to have 5 full-time HF stations on around the clock plus one dedicated 6m station. A full list of ops has not yet been confirmed but might include the following: F5OGL, F5CW, F5IRO, TZ6SA, F5PTM, F1AKK, F5AEP, F8UNF, F5MSR, F0CRS, F5JKK/FM5JC, FR5ZU, FR5IZ. QSLs will go via F5OGL.

Yet another rare DXCC Entity should be on the air between the middle of this year and the first half of 2006 with the news that some Colombian ops have announced plans to head to Malpelo island (SA-007) between June 2005 and March 2006. Led by Pedro HK1XX and a member of the HK0TU expedition in 1990, plans are to have 13 Colombian ops and 7 foreign guest ops head for Malpelo which lies about 314 miles (506 kilometres) off the coast of Buenaven-

tura, Colombia in the Eastern Pacific Ocean.

Malpelo is the peak of a submarine ridge which rises from a dept of about 4,000 metres and is home to a small garrison from the Colombian Navy since 1986.

Also doing some small island hopping, a group of Canadian Hams will head back to St Paul island (NA-094) between June 7th and July 7th to use the call CY9SS which was used by much the same team back in July 1997 and again in June 1999. Members will include: Robert/VY2RO, Grant/W1AIM, Jim/VE9WH, William/VY2LI, Justin/K9MU, Robert/VY2SS, Doug/VE1PZ, Glenn/VE9GJ, Lowell/VY2OX, Steve/VE2TKH and Dave/VA2DV.

Well renowned magazine 'CQ Amateur Radio' was first published in January 1945 and to celebrate it's 60th Anniversary are inviting everybody who has an association with CQ, either as a staff member, a contributing author, right down to any current subscriber of CQ, CQ VHF, to use /60 after their call (not sure how ComReg would view this for us EI's hi!) for the first 60 days of 2005 and certificates start at the basic working 60 points. Listen out for the club station WW2CQ from various call areas of the US.

Finally some interesting statistics for all you number crunchers out there. Of the 335 current DXCC entities that qualify towards the DXCC programme, apparently 287 were QRV last year.

For those who like long lists here's what are believed to be the 48 Entities not on air in 2004:

1S - Spratly Islands, 3B7 - Agalega & St. Brandon Islands, 3C - Equatorial Guinea, 3C0 - Annobon, 3D2/C - Conway Reef, 3Y-B - Bouvet Island, 3Y-P - Peter 1 Island, 7O - Yemen, 9X - Rwanda, BS7H - Scarborough Reef, BV9P - Pratas Island, CE0X - San Felix Island, CY0 - Sable Island, CY9 - St.

Padraic Baynes EI9JA



Padraic was the director of the very well organised Mayo Rally held in the Belmont Hotel in Knock on November 21st.

Paul Island, D6 - Comoros, E3 - Eritrea, E4 - Palestine, FO/C - Clipperton Island, FR/G - Glorioso Island, FR/J/E - Juan de Nova and Europa, FR/T - Tromelin Island, FT5W - Crozet Island, FT5X - Kerguelen Island, FT5Z - Amsterdam & St. Paul Island, H40 - Temotu Province, HK0/M - Malpelo Island, J5 - Guinea-Bissau, KH1 - Baker and Howland Island, KH3 - Johnston Island, KH5 - Palmyra, Jarvis Islands, KH5K - Kingman Reef, KH7K - Kure Island, KP1 - Navassa Island, KP5 - Desecheo Island, P5 - DPRK (North Korea), PY0T - Trindade & Martim Vaz Island, T31 - Central Kiribati, TI9 - Cocos Island, TL - Central African Republic, VK0H - Heard Island, VK0M - Macquarie Island, VK9M - Mellish Reef, VK9W - Willis Island, VP6/D - Ducie Island, VP8/S - South Sandwich Islands, VU7 - Lakshadweep Islands, ZK2 - Niue, ZL8 - Kermadec Island, and finally ZL9 - Auckland & Campbell Island.

Another interesting 'statistic' is that in order to have worked them all you would had to have been QRV for the last 16 years as the last time the Lakshadweeps (VU7) were on was in March 1989.

Fascinating reading I'm sure you'll agree hi!

That's it for this issue, my thanks to the Daily DX, as always, so until next time, keep listening!

73 de EI2HY

Frank O'Brien EI2GS Top of DXCC Honor Roll



Frank O'Brien (pictured above) recently worked his 353rd DXCC entity and thus became the first EI in recent times to complete a "Full House" of all possible DXCC entities.

The final two contacts needed by Frank to complete his "Full House" were North Korea (P5) and Andaman and Nicobar Islands (VU4).

He was lucky enough to work North Korea when it was activated for a short period in 2003.

However Andaman looked like a lost cause as the Indian authorities had, over a period of many years, resolutely refused to allow any Amateur Radio operations from there.

An unexplained and sudden - though very welcome - change of heart occurred in late 2004 when a small group of Indian amateurs were allowed to travel to, and operate from Andaman in December of that year.

This was the same group that received such widespread publicity for its Emergency Communications work following the Indian Ocean Tsunami. This experience of Amateur Radio has subsequently resulted in the Indian authorities announcing that future Indian DXpeditions to VU4 will be welcomed.

Frank was successful in working the VU4 DXpedition on three bands before the Tsunami struck.

Congratulations, Frank, you must surely rank as our No.1 DXer.

Shack Layouts Wanted

A subject often discussed among amateurs is the ideal shack design. There are many different views expressed on the subject and the variety of designs is huge. Of course everything depends on the space available. Lucky is the amateur who has a dedicated radio room.

We would like to get photographs of your shack for publication in Echo Ireland. Please take a few pictures from different angles and send them on.

A brief description would also be appreciated. Also of interest would be the method you use to get the feeders into the shack.

Original hard copy photographs can be scanned and returned.

EI7M Crew CQWW CW 2004



Top: Jerry EI6BT, Alan G3SXV

Middle: Dave EI4BZ, Neil EI3JE

Bottom: Mannix EI5HB, Brendan EI0CZ

IRTS Operating Awards

March 28th Spring 2m Counties

June 4/5th CW Field Day

July 2/3rd VHF/UHF Field Day

All July Slievenamon Shield
(70 cms FM)

July 30/31 IOTA Contest
(Trophies for leading EJ station, leading EI Single op and top EI in the 12 hour CW section)

August 28th Autumn 2m Counties

Sept 3/4th SSB Field Day

Nov. 26/27th CQWW CW
(Trophy for top EI Single Op)

All Year 6m & 4m
(The EI7IQ Shields are competed for over the whole year)

All Year SWL Trophy

Nov Shannon Basin Challenge

Dundalk Amateur Radio Society

On Thursday January 13th, members of the Dundalk Amateur Radio Society visited the Church Island Radio Group in County Derry. This is a new radio club founded in May 2004 and is based at Bellaghy Community Hall between Portglenone and Magherafelt.

Their club callsign is MN0LBA and the aim of the club is to promote the hobby of amateur radio by providing classes in radio theory, club meetings where they will have a fully equipped shack for HF, VHF/UHF, Packet, ATV etc...

Those that made the journey from Dundalk included Thos EI2JD, James MI5AHG, Jim MI3SBI, Billy MI3WBL and Brendan MI3TVI.

They were greeted by the club chairman John MI0MIO and the club PRO Joe GI1JHQ who introduced them to the club members and showed them around their extensive hall and grounds.

Both club chairmen gave a little talk on their respective clubs and projects for the future. Some cross-border activities planned include ATV, Special Events (including a trip to Rathlin Island) and contesting. The club also received information on membership of IRTS.

A return visit to the Dundalk Amateur Radio Club house is planned for early March when there will be an ATV activity night.

Our thanks to the Church Island Radio Group for their hospitality and look forward to seeing them in Dundalk.

The Church Island Group are making the return trip to Dundalk on Wednesday March 9th for an evening of Amateur TV.

Cork Repeater Group Annual General Meeting

The AGM of the Cork Repeater Group was held on Saturday January 22nd at Wilton Park House.

The outgoing committee reported that both repeaters were running well and no major expenditure was needed during the past year.

The following committee was elected:

Chairman: Aedan EI3EG
Secretary: Jim EI8GS
Treasurer: John EI6AK
Tech. Director Tony EI2CV

Committee: John EI2FG
Anthony EI2HY

Plans for the coming year were discussed and applications will be made to experiment with both Echolink and IRLP.

Subscriptions remain at €20.00 and should be forwarded to John Mooney EI6AK at 'The Cottage', South Douglas Road, Cork.

Kerry Amateur Radio Group Field Days

November Field Day

The club's first "Portable Ops" day was held on Saturday, the 27th of November adjacent to the Cromwell Point Light-house (IRE-077) in grid squares V37/V47 (Valentia Island, Co. Kerry).

Ron, EI2JP/P commenced operations at approximately 11 a.m. on the WAI net, and, over the next three hours, in excess of forty contacts were made with stations in Ireland, England, Scotland, and Wales. Reports were generally favourable but it was noted that stations inside a 200 km radius of the site were giving generally poor reports. Stations further afield were giving much better reports.

Following the closing of the net, operations moved up to 20 and 17 metres, where a number of contacts were made onto the continent. John, operating EI9ESB/P, with just 5 watts SSB and an ATX Walkabout aerial, managed several contacts including Italy, Norway, and Sweden. EI2JP/P managed to snag Estonia and Hungary with 50 watts into a vertical on 17 SSB before going QRT for the day.

January Field Day

The club's second field day was held on Saturday, the 15th of January adjacent to the RTE radio transmitter site on Knockanore Mountain near Ballybunion, Co. Kerry.

It was the first field day using the club's new call sign EI1KARG. This was also the first time that two KARG members operated portable for the AREN training exercise, which was also held on the day.

After the exercise, Declan, EI9FVB and Donie, EI8CS commenced operations on 7.068 MHz, and, over the next 2 1/2 hours, made many contacts with stations in Ireland, England, Scotland, and Wales. Once again the day's success could be attributed to the deployment of a simple, but effective, NVIS antenna. They then moved on to 15 metres where a dozen or so contacts were made using a simple mobile whip.

The day was rounded out by making several simplex and repeater QSOs on 2 metres and 70 cm.

Meanwhile, Ron, EI2JP operated the second HF station on 20 and 17 metres

where a number of contacts were made using 50 watts and his now famous "portatenna".

Countries worked included Canada, the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, and the US.

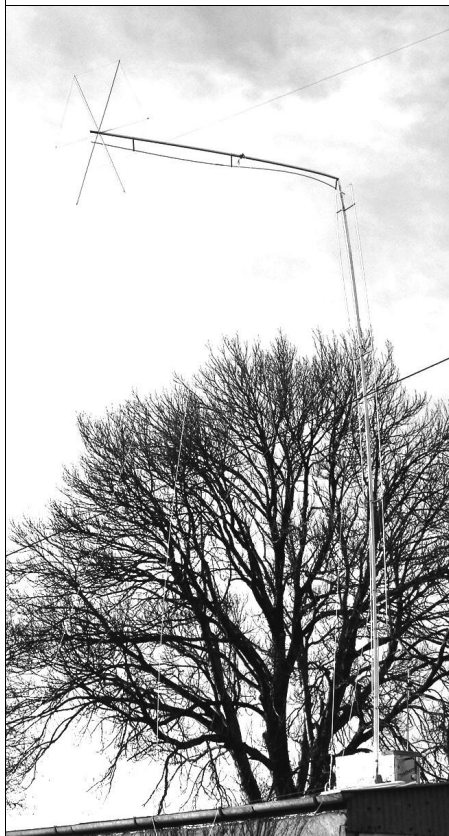
Some confusion was caused by the unique four-letter suffix call sign; Many stations had suspicions that this was a bootleg operation!!

A good day was had by all and plans are now in place for the February Field Day, which will be held on Saturday the 12th of February, at a location near Killarney. As always, stations interested in particular grid squares in Kerry are asked to email their needs to clubinfo at kerry dot com, where it is hoped that more squares can be activated over the coming months.

Up-to-date information on the club and its field day activities can be found on the web at www.kerry.com

Contact Information:
Ron Hahn, Chairman,
Muckross, Killarney, Co. Kerry
Tel. 086-600-5499

Storm damage at EI9HX



The new "Gap Voyager DX 160,80,40, & 20" vertical installed on a shed roof at the QTH of Pat EI9HX came a cropper in the early January storms.

The vertical is 45' long and is elevated on a 15' galvanised shed, (only in the air for 6-weeks,)

EchoLink and I.R.L.P.

Internet linking to amateur radio repeaters and home stations is growing at a rapid rate worldwide.

Here in EI, ComReg are licensing both repeater and simplex Echolink and I.R.L.P. nodes on an experimental basis.

This will be reviewed and ComReg have asked the Society to state a position on the issue.

If you have a view you wish to express, please send it by email or snail mail to Dave EI4BZ QTHR who is chairing a sub-committee to look at the issues involved.

Please have a detailed look at both systems (and indeed some others) and then communicate your views.

Letters to the Editor on the subject would also be welcomed.

South Dublin Radio Club Christmas 2004



Members of South Dublin Radio Club had a visit from Ben Croly 9H1DQ/EI8EQ during his trip to EI from Malta where he now lives.

Ben is one of the founder members of the club and Jim Holohan EI2HH, SDR Chairman, presented Ben with a founder members certificate.

Also in the picture are two other founder members, Alan Shattock EI7EH and Derek Peyton EI7FM.

The club will celebrate its first twenty-five years of existence in 2005 and save for it's first year when it met in the "Morgue" and "Yellow House" pubs, it has been resident in Ballyroan Community Centre ever since.

South Dublin Radio Club Annual General Meeting

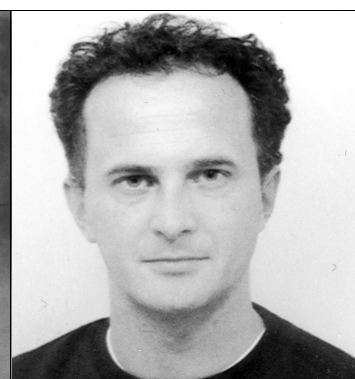
Tuesday March 8th at 2000

EI 6 Metre DXCC No. 3 for Alan EI3EBB

Congratulations to Alan Foley EI3EBB on achieving DXCC on 6 Metres. Alan has been operating on the 6m band since 1993 and it has taken the best part on 12 years to work and confirm the necessary 100 counties.

Alan is also the first holder of a class B licence to achieve DXCC.

Originally operating from Cork City, Alan now lives at a very good location for VHF in the village of Watergrasshill in County Cork.



Sweers Island, OC-227

Lyn Battle VK4SWE

One of the advantages of being editor of Echo Ireland is the opportunity it presents to make contact with people all over the world. Over the years, I have had mail, phone calls and e-mails from many Irish people now domiciled abroad.

This is the story of one Irish emigrant who now lives in an idyllic setting on Sweers Island (OC-227) on the north coast of Australia in the Gulf of Carpentaria.

Lyn Battle (nee Doyle) left Ireland eighteen years ago on a working holiday and like many more, she met an Australian and decided to stay.

Lyn's father was a wireless operator, first for Marconi Marine and then at Malin Head Wireless Station in north Donegal. Lyn worked for five years for the Dublin Port Authority.

Her interest in wireless goes back to national school when with a friend she learned Morse code using flashlights to communicate between houses and to compare home work.

While at university, a good friend was studying for his amateur radio licence and her interest in radio was further strengthened.

Lyn moved to Sweers Island and now operates a small fishing resort with partner Tex.

On her arrival on the island, the only radio available was the Flying Doctors HF and marine VHF.

Lyn signed on with the Ron Bertrand's Online Radio & Electronics School (www.radioelectronicschool.com) to study for her amateur radio licence. She was assigned a tutor, Brian VK2GCE, who pushed her hard and in twelve months, she successfully completed her course, sat the examination and became the proud owner of the callsign VK4SWE. Although the Morse Code is not now mandatory in VK, Lyn has learned it and continues to use it on the air and is getting the speed up.

Ron Bertrand's Online School is worth a visit and it's services are available worldwide. The service is free to Australian residents but overseas students are charged a fee for the services of a tutor.

Lyn's tutor had one Irish student when she was doing the course.

Sitting the examination on such a remote area was also interesting. An examination paper was mailed in a sealed envelope to Lyn and she kept it until an invigilator was able to call to her home and supervise her doing the examination.

Lyn operates a Kenwood TS-140S on HF and has dipoles for 20 and 40 metres and also a whip for 20m. Because of being in a cyclone area, there are no high trees available for supporting wire.

A recent visitor to the island was Johan PA7EXX who was on an IOTA DXpedition to several islands in northern VK. He used the callsign VK4WWI for his operations. Details at <http://home-11.tiscali.nl/~su042021/>

Anyone interested in making a DX sked with Lyn is welcome to contact her on lyntex@bigpond.com.

Have a look at the Sweers Island website at www.sweers.com.au



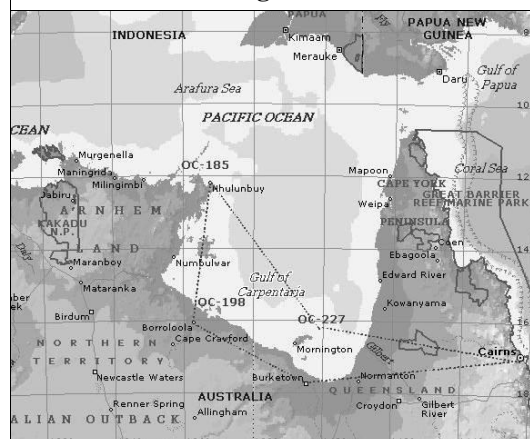
**Johan PA3EXX/VK4WWI
and Lyn VK4SWE**



Lyn busy with the soldering iron



**20 Metre whip and dipole end support in
mango tree**



Some New Year thoughts from Kerry via W1-land

By Ron Hahn EI2JP

Uncomfortable: (adj) conducive to, or feeling mental discomfort.

On this warm, sunny New Year's Day (at least here whilst I'm on holidays in Connecticut), two headlines from the local newspaper jump out at me:

"A tragic ending.."

"Aid pledges soar, but delivery still stalled.."

The first headline pertains to the first police officer in the nearby town of Newington (home of the ARRL) to die in the line of duty. A local resident comments that "things like this just don't happen here".

The second pertains to the logistical problems associated with getting relief aid to those unfortunate enough to be affected by the recent tsunami in the Indian Ocean.

How are these pertinent to our activities, you ask? A lot more pertinent than meets the eye. Bad things happen in places they aren't supposed to. The best-laid relief plans are no good if they can't be implemented. Complex support structures don't work when the simple ones are overlooked.

Health warning. I feel a bit of discomfort coming on.. When was the last time you switched off that "comfortable" linear amp and ran bare foot, or even QRP?

How long has it been since you abandoned the "comfortable" 230v mains and operated from battery, or solar power? When was the last time you operated portable? Are you able to still tune that aerial with the "manual" antenna tuner in the closet?

Too often, in this hobby we overlook the "uncomfortable" aspects; emergency power, spare antennas, QRP, paper logging, disaster preparedness, in favour of "convenience". But, in times of emergency (as outlined above), simplicity and self-sufficiency are paramount to success. So, for 2005 can I suggest a few ideas to help you become more self-sufficient and better prepared for the unexpected?

- 1) Lose the mains: Develop a battery powered strategy that is appropriate for your station. If your rig is solid state, identify and install a suitably sized battery power source (if it doesn't have one all ready). Don't forget a suitable charger, too!
- 2) Turn down the power: If your HF rig allows it, turn down the power to 50 watts or less. Or, jettison that big linear and go bare-foot for a change. You'll be a better neighbour on the bands and become a more skillful operator as well.
- 3) Build a spare dipole (or two): How self sufficient would you be if ALL your aerials blew down? A spare ensures you'll be ready if inclement weather takes down your normal antenna farm. Don't forget extra ropes and pulleys to get it in the air.
- 4) Try simplex: If you've become accustomed to the convenience of repeater operation, try simplex. Improve your VHF/UHF antenna system so you can maintain local

communications without the repeater. Repeaters can be knocked "off-the-air" by foul weather too.

- 5) Keep it simple: Log by hand.. Stick to cw and phone.. leave the computer off.. Try and keep your station as minimalist as possible. Less ingredients = less to go wrong.
- 6) Think redundancy: Are there any single points of failure in your station?

Would the failure of one key component knock you "off-the-air"? Strive to eliminate any single points of failure from your setup.

I'm not suggesting that you need to or have to try all six points above, but try at least one. Your station will become more self sufficient and more capable in times of need. Think of other ways that your station might become "uncomfortable", but more self-sufficient.

Finally, there are two organizations that need your continued help (and support).

First of all, if you aren't a member of the IRTS, please join. The IRTS is OUR national representative body and all the good changes we've seen in the last few years are due in no small part to the work of our national society.

If you don't agree with their policies.. all the more reason to support them. You can't have a say if you aren't a member. If your membership has lapsed, consider renewing.

Secondly, AREN needs your help. If you haven't joined AREN or are hesitant about joining, do so now. John Ketch, our tireless national coordinator, has received hearty support for the organization but can always use more. Public service is the key to our future; Play your part by supporting AREN in whatever way you are able.

Let me take this opportunity to wish you and your families all the best for 2005. May the sunspot cycle improve and the skies stay sunny (hi hi). I look forward to an exciting and fruitful year in radio.

73 de EI2JP in W1 land

Ron Hahn (EI2JP), Muckross, Killarney, Co. Kerry, Ireland
Tel. +353-64-36842, Mob. +353-86-600-5499

Guinness World Records recognizes high-speed telegraphy achievement

Guinness World Records Ltd has recognized the high-speed telegraphy achievement of Andrei Bindasov, EU7KI.

"On 6 May 2003 Andrei Bindasov (Belarus) transmitted 216 marks of mixed text per minute during the 5th International Amateur Radio Union World Championship in High Speed Telegraphy in Belarus," the Guinness database listing states.

Bindasov says he received the official certificate from Guinness November 24. Bindasov also sent 271 letters per minute and 230 figures per minute during those phases of the 2003 HST competition

<<http://www.qsl.net/yo4kca/hstrules.htm>>.

Cork Schools talk to Astronaut on the International Space Station



History was made on Friday December 17th when 300 primary school children from Cork City and County took part in a unique event at University College Cork.

They were being introduced to the science of space exploration at an early age. The event was hosted by the European Space Agency, the Discover Science and Engineering programme and Enterprise Ireland.

Amateur Radio featured prominently in the occasion.

The ESA education section has links with the ARISS (Amateur Radio in Space Station) through Gaston Bertels ON4WF, who is European Chairman. In fact the director of ESA education himself spoke at the event.

ARISS is an international outreach with US participation by ARRL, AMSAT and NASA.

Gaston ON4WF first made contact with IRTS president Sean Donelan EI4GK who contacted Cork Radio Club.

A number of meetings were held beforehand with Stephanie O'Neill of Forfas, and Audrey Brown of Ultimate Communications (who were the event organisers) to make sure that everything went well on the day.

One of the highlights was to have a live astronaut, Jean-Francois Clervoy present to speak to the children. He has completed three missions in space and really enthralled the children (and the adults)!

Another was the selection of ten children to put a question to Leroy Chiao KE5BRW who was the commander on board the space shuttle.

Other events to entertain the children were included, such as a Magician, Santa Claus etc.



The ten children, one from each of the ten schools attending, who asked the questions live on air were all suited out in astronauts boiler suits complete with all the emblems.

The children had been preparing for the event for several weeks beforehand and were well briefed on the subject.

No expense was spared in getting the venue ready and the lecture theatre was really transformed for the day.

The MC for the event was Leo Enright, Chairman of the Discover Science and Engineering Programme.

The event was officially opened by Mr. Michael Ahern T.D. Minister for Trade & Commerce.

Among those who also addressed the audience were Sean Nolan EI7CD Vice President of the IRTS, the French astronaut Jean-Francois Clervoy and the head of the Education Department at the European Space Agency Roger Elaerts.

Cork Radio Club members set up the local end of the communications link, which was via land bridge through Will VK5ZAI in South Australia.

It was co-ordinated and monitored by ARISS mentor Will Marchant, KC6ROL in the USA.

Jeremy EI5GM operated the Cork end of the QSO.

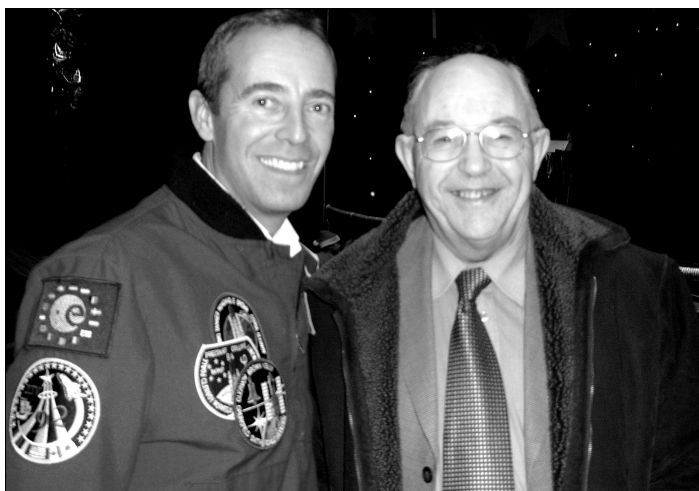
On the dot of 1350 all went quiet and we could hear first of all Will Marchant KC6ROL and immediately following came the astronaut Leroy calling.

Jeremy EI5GM, the chairman of the Cork Radio Club answered with "a loud and clear."

The link-up was very successful and the audio was connected to the public address in the auditorium with excellent quality.

Next it was the ten children's turn to put their questions to Leroy. The commander, who urged the children to learn about science and space exploration, said that perhaps some one in the audience might one day be a future astronaut.

(Continued on page 15)



Jean-Francois Clervoy, European Space Agency Astronaut with Sean Nolan Vice President of the Irish Radio Transmitters Society

(Continued from page 14)

He praised their choice of questions.

Responding to one youngster's question about what it felt like to be in a place without gravity, Chiao said there's not much to compare it with.

"It feels like nothing else on Earth," he said from the controls of the space station's NA1SS. "It's really neat to float around." Chiao said the closest approximation on Earth might be floating on water.

In reply to another student's question, he pointed out that working in microgravity "has its own challenges," but that it made constructing the ISS much easier overall.

The youngsters' final question--and Chiao's reply to it--got the entire student group and audience of onlookers giggling.

One pupil wanted to know if there were toilets on the ISS and how astronauts dealt with bodily functions while wearing their space suits.

"Life doesn't stop when you come into space," Chiao said. He explained that there were not only toilets aboard the ISS but diapers for the astronauts to wear while they're suited up for travel. "But we try not to have to use them," he added. "So we try to prepare ourselves before."

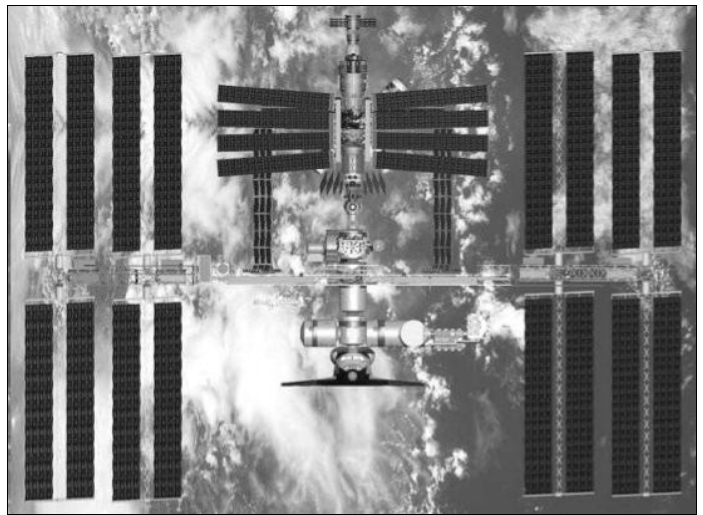
During the course of the contact, Chiao--using the more powerful and convenient NA1SS Phase 2 station--answered all 10 questions the youngsters had prepared.

MCI provided a two-way teleconferencing link between Australia and Ireland--to make the contact possible--and to the US, where ARISS mentor Will Marchant, KC6ROL, moderated. Audio also was distributed via IRLP.

It was not possible to have a direct radio link to the satellite from Cork due to the pass being at the wrong time, hence the use of a telebridge.

As he prepared to sign off, Chiao urged the youngsters to "follow your dreams and reach for the stars." Apparently recognizing that a few seconds remained in the approximately seven-minute pass, Hutchison jumped in to ask Chiao to share his advice on becoming an astronaut.

Following a request by Jeremy EI5GM a huge cheer from the audience of more than 300 followed, that took a good half-minute to wind down.



The International Space Station is the largest and most complex international scientific project in history. And when it is complete, the station will represent a move of unprecedented scale off the home planet. Led by the United States, the International Space Station draws upon the scientific and technological resources of 16 nations: Canada, Japan, Russia, 11 nations of the European Space Agency and Brazil.

More than four times as large as the Russian Mir space station, the completed International Space Station will have a mass of about 1,040,000 pounds. It will measure 356 feet across and 290 feet long, with almost an acre of solar panels to provide electrical power to six state-of-the-art laboratories.

Chiao wished the youngsters a Merry Christmas and happy holidays.

Several newspapers, a TV station and the Irish national radio network covered the event.

Cork Radio Club members involved included Jeremy Sheehan EI5GM, Fr. Finbarr Buckley EI1CS, Aedan O'Meara EI3EG, John O'Sullivan EI3EC, Tom Whelton EI8FXB and Stephen O'Leary EI6JA.

Jim Barry EI8GS filmed the entire operation for the Cork ATV Group.

IRTS was represented by Vice President Sean Nolan EI7CD and PRO Dave Moore EI4BZ.



Pictured in UCC after the event were Fr. Finbarr EI1CS, Jeremy EI5GM, Jim EI8GS, Tom EI8FXB, Jean-Francois Clervoy, John EI3EC and Aedan EI3EG.

Participation in such a prestigious event like this demonstrated to many in the areas of science and technology a view of our hobby that they were totally unaware of.

On speaking with them they were amazed at the range and depth of amateur radio, from satellites and microwaves and ATV to data communication etc.

It marked us out as serious experimenters. Hopefully long term benefits can be made due to the contacts established during this event.

It was a good day for amateur radio in EI.

An MP3 audio recording of the contact is available at ariss.uba.be/2004_12_17.htm.



Maritime Mobile Service Network

www.mmsn.org

1200 - 2100 EST on 14.300 MHz

The Mobile Service Network (MMSN) was founded in January 1968 by Chaplain A.W. Robertson, KB5YX, USN Retired.

The nets original purpose was to "serve those who serve" in the United States military during the Vietnam crisis. Since that time, the net's hours and format have evolved with operational requirements.

The MMSN is composed of a dedicated group of radio amateurs who unselfishly volunteer their time, equipment and efforts to serve and assist those in need of communications from foreign countries and on the high seas.

The primary purpose of the net is for handling traffic from maritime mobiles, both pleasure and commercial, and overseas deployed service personnel. They also assist missionaries and persons working abroad.

The Maritime Mobile Service Net is operational every day from 12:00 pm until 9:00 pm Eastern Standard Time, and from 12:00 pm until 10:00pm Eastern Daylight Time, on a frequency of 14.300 MHz., in the 20-meter amateur band. The network also operates on the alternate frequency of 14.313 MHz., should the primary frequency be inoperable. The Maritime Mobile Service Network immediately follows The Intercontinental Traffic Net.

Over 60 volunteer net control stations from throughout North America and the Caribbean maintain the network. Further, the net control stations are assisted by relay stations. This assures virtually total coverage of the entire Atlantic Ocean, Mediterranean Sea, the Caribbean Sea and the eastern Pacific Ocean.

The network is recognized by the United States Coast Guard and has developed an excellent working relationship with them. The MMSN has been instrumental in handling hundreds of incidents involving vessels in distress, medical emergencies in remote locations and passing health & welfare traffic in and out of areas effected by natural disasters. The network acts as a weather beacon for ships during periods of severe

weather and regularly repeats high seas and tropical weather warnings and bulletins from the National Weather Service and the National Hurricane Center.

The network is also part of the MAROB (MARine OBservation) program of the National Weather Service. We gather "live" weather and sea conditions from maritime mobile stations and forward that information directly to the weather service via the internet. The live data assists the meteorologists with upcoming maritime weather forecasts.

All amateur radio operators are invited to join the network simply by checking in. If you have a phone patch at your station, please tell the net control station and he/she will certainly try to put you to work!

Please remember, this is a DIRECTED network and the NCS has the reigns. Please listen to the directives of the NCS and follow them. Please, do not transmit if you have not been directed to do so.

During an emergency situation on the net, the NCS has the ultimate authority and, pursuant to FCC regulations, stations who intentionally interfere with emergency traffic are subject to prosecution or citation.

Structure Of The Net

The Maritime Mobile Service Network is not a typical check-in net. Although they do accept check-ins from stations without traffic, those just wanting to say hello, it is not our primary purpose.

Their primary purpose is to handle traffic from maritime mobile stations and deployed service personnel.

If there are no maritime mobiles or deployed stations, they then look for stations with traffic. This format repeats approximately every 15 minutes.

They also provide high seas weather information for the maritime mobile stations, hurricane advisories and tropical weather information.

They also read Amber Alerts from law enforcement agencies all over North America.

They also take position reports and collect weather information from maritime mobile stations for the National Weather Service.

Once all of the above is done, then they will ask for check-ins from stations without traffic. Depending on the traffic load on the particular day, the period that they will ask for check-ins without traffic will vary. However, they appreciate everyone monitoring the net and being ready to assist.

Checking Into The Net

If you wish to check into the net, you are asked to first listen to ensure that there is no emergency traffic in progress.

You will then hear the net control station (NCS) ask for check-ins according to the above format.

If you are a station on land, DO NOT transmit when the NCS is asking for maritime mobiles!

Likewise, if you are checking in with no traffic, DO NOT transmit when the NCS is looking for stations with traffic.

They ask that you observe a degree of discipline and follow the directions of the NCS.

When the time is right to check-in according to the above format, please say just your callsign phonetically *once* and standby. The NCS will then call you back in the order that you were heard. When the NCS calls you into the net, please say your name, location and any traffic you may have.

In the event that you do not hear the NCS, DO NOT call blindly on the frequency. They run a directed net and you will only cause interference with other stations.

If you do not hear the NCS, standby and wait for a relay station to call for check-ins. Then follow the above procedure for checking into the net.

The most important network operation that any station can perform is **listening**. There is nothing more frustrating and wasteful than five stations talking at the same time!

Further information on www.mmsn.org

East Cork Radio Group

The Annual general meeting of the East Cork Radio Group was held on January 19th in the club shack.

A very busy year was reviewed with the highlight no doubt being the joint venture with the Bristol Contest Group for the IOTA contest last July.

Anyone who was on that trip to Bere Island will certainly not miss this years trip. A new standard of comfort and convenience was set and all at a great price.

All the effort was well justified with a fourth place finish, ending up as the top station in western Europe.

Everything is booked again for next July.

Following the loss of the facilities at Poer Head, developments of the new station progressed satisfactorily and the group is indebted to John EI8IR and Hilary EI4IE for allowing their QTH to be used as the group's headquarters. The major project during the past year was the erection of a 105' rotating tower. All the engineering was carried out by John EI8IR and Jim EI8GS and it all turned out exactly as planned several years ago.

Currently it carries monobanders for 10, 15 and 20 metres and the next stage is to add a further three phased monobanders.

The other tower, a wind up job carries a 2 element 40m Yagi at about 90' with a TH7 and a tribander lower down.

An 80' vertical tuned for 80m and 160m together with several dipoles complete the antenna line up.

For listening, three beverages are normally run out for the major events.

During the year we had several guest operators join us for the bigger contests. Our thanks to Brendan EI0CZ, Thos EI2JD and Alan G3SXV for helping us out. We are always looking for other committed guest operators.

Officers elected for the coming year are:

Chairman	Mannix EI5HB
Secretary	Dave EI4BZ
Treasurer	Jerry EI6BT
QSL Manager	Denis EI6HB
Webmaster	Cormac EI4HQ

Monday nights are work nights at EI7M and visitors and indeed new members are always welcome to come along.

We will always find something for you to do!



Reading the Mail

By

Michael McNamara, EI2CL

Welcome to compilation #34 of "Reading the Mail" – an account of IRTS incoming QSL Bureau activity from 21 November 2004 to 25 January 2005.

Not a great amount of business to report on this occasion but, as I have said before, it is never possible to predict how many items will be received and from where they will come.

For the record small packets (less than 1 kg) came from AFVL, ARM, BV2KI, EDR, G3TXF, IARC, JARL x2, MRASZ, OVSF, US3IZ, UT5SI, VE2-buro, V51AS, VU2XO, YO2, I was well occupied with heavier lots from ARRL, REF, SARL, ZRS (2kg each), PZK (7kg) and ARI (8kg). Another heavyweight from RSGB included cards from 3B9C, the Rodrigues Island DX-pedition of 2004, see picture.

Cards from the following were noticed and thought worthy of mention:

A52CQ, BY1DX, C5Z, HV5PUL, SP0EURO, T7IARU, TK4Z, V31XM, YI/S57CQ, YI9T, 5H3/IK2GZU, 5X1GS, 6J2MX, and 9G5AN 50MHZ.

For IOTA chasers there was:

A35WE, BV2B/9, BV9AYA, CE0Y/W7XU, CY9DH, FO/OH6KN, KH6/N0CO, NH6JC, OX/N6AA, S9SS, T88CC, and VY0/7K1WLE.

Congratulations to all recipients.

Until my next report, all best wishes and lots of good DX in 2005.

Michael McNamara, EI2CL



Cork Radio Club EI5CRC

Members pictured at a recent meeting at Wilton Park House
Standing: Con EI7DJB, John EI8HS, Pat EI2GHB, John EI3EC, Jeremy EI5GM, John SWL, Dave EI8FBB

Seated: Finbarr EI1CS, Aedan EI3EG, Frank EI6EVB, Dick EI6HH, Vincent EI7HN



Emergency Communications

With
John Ketch EI2GN

Tsunami

Many radio amateurs in the effected area and around the world took part in passing health and welfare traffic into and of South East Asia after the Tsunami struck on December 26th last.

The AREN group was placed on alert and it was in touch with the IARU region one coordinator, Gordon Adams, G3LEQ, Paul Gaskell, Radio Communications Voluntary Services UK and SATERNs Major Pat McPherson, WW9W.

The Tsunamirelief Echolink net operated continually from the date of the occurrence of the disaster until it was no longer needed, and was stood down on Jan 11th 2005 at 2300 UTC. It was started and managed by Pierre VE1HE, George KD7YVV and John KG4LMU and created an opportunity for radio amateurs around the world to take part in helping to handle traffic into and out of the effected area.

The details of this traffic and the major contribution of the members of the VU4 DX-pedition are now well documented and do not need to be repeated here.

The net operated on the Canada conference, which was in turn linked with various other conferences including Alaska, England and USA. It was also linked with various repeaters and with two HF gateways, and the overall result presented an efficient and reliable method of communications for those wishing to help.

Special thanks are due to, John EI7IG who monitored the net for the duration of the event and who operated as a traffic handler and to Declan EI9FVB who volunteered as a net control station.

On New Years Eve, Derek O'Reilly responded to a request from AREN in relation to the handling of third part traffic with countries in the effected area and this helped to facilitate the AREN efforts on behalf of those who needed assistance.

AREN members handled traffic from, among others, VU2RBI and processed a request for assistance by the Jakarta Deep Sea Sailing Club, via a Belgian station, for assistance with communications.

GAREC-2005

The First Global Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Conference

Tampere, Finland, June 13 -- 14, 2005

Assistance in emergency and disaster situations has a long tradition in the Amateur Radio Service. In recent years, the importance of this activity has increased further and has in fact also become a major argument in the defence of the Amateur Radio bands and in the protection of this valuable resource against potential interference by new technologies.

In some countries, the role of the amateur radio service in case of emergencies and disasters is well established and organized or even institutionalised. In a large number of countries, how-

ever, hams can perform this important public service only in an improvised manner if and when a disaster occurs. This seriously affects the efficiency of what we can contribute, and it is thus essential to review existing mechanisms and to allow all national amateur radio societies to benefit from existing experiences.

To allow such an exchange is the purpose of GAREC-2005, and the organizers and *Suomen Radioamatööriito ry (SRAL)* are pleased to invite fellow hams from all countries to gather in Finland in June 2005.

Dr. Pekka Tarjanne, the former Secretary-General of the *International Telecommunication Union (ITU)*, has kindly accepted the patronage of GAREC-2005.

The event will take place in Tampere, a town with a long tradition in emergency telecommunications and known throughout the world through the Tampere Convention, the first international treaty on the provision of telecommunications in support of disaster relief. The conference is open to everyone with an interest in its topic; we expect in particular representatives from amateur radio societies, but also from national and international humanitarian institutions and governmental and non-governmental organizations, national telecommunication administrations, as well as the private and academic sector.

The Conference is also expected to prepare and adopt a statement to another event in 2005: The second phase of the *World Summit of the Information Society (WSIS)*, scheduled to take place in Tunis, Tunisia, in November of the same year. This summit will be a unique opportunity, to give visibility to the contributions the Amateur Radio Service can provide through its networks as well as through its skilled operators.

Training

The AREN training net continues for 2005 and the next event will take place on February 19th 2005, commencing at 0930. The primary frequency is 7.099 MHz and the secondary frequency is 3.690 MHz.

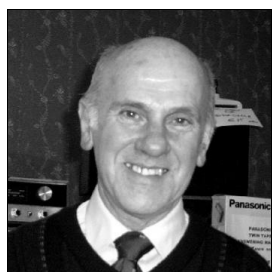
This is a members only net, however non-member traffic will be taken towards the end of the event when the training session has been completed.

If you have an interest in Emergency Communications please listen to the net and you are very welcome to call when invited to do so by the NCS.

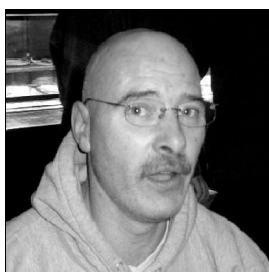
The first part of the training session, which will ensure the availability of a pool of trained radio operators will be completed in March 2005.

Identity cards and emblems will be issued to all members following this and the level of expertise, acquired through the training sessions, will be reflected in the type of ID issued.

Enquires about IRTS Emergency Communications are always welcome and should be directed to the Emergency Communication Coordinator John Ketch EI2GN, on 086-2593005 or via e-mail to ei2gn at ketch dot ie.

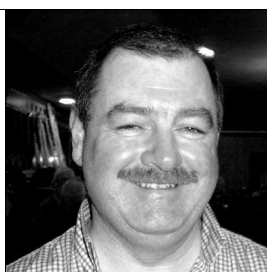


Mike EI2EO



Tony EI7JN

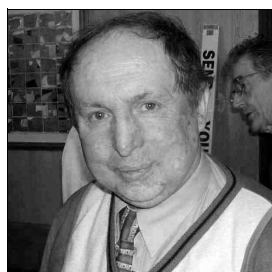
**Pictures from the
Mayo Rally
Nov. 21st 2004
Belmont Hotel
Knock**



Tony EI3HA



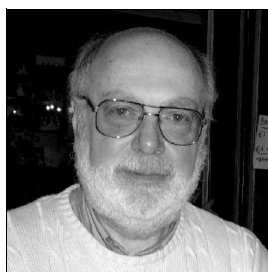
Michael EI3IG



Jackie EI9EJ



Chris EI7AAB



Dave EI3IO



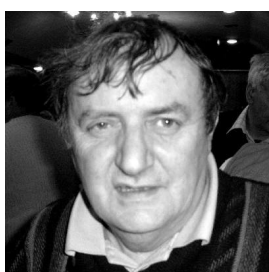
Ken EI4DW



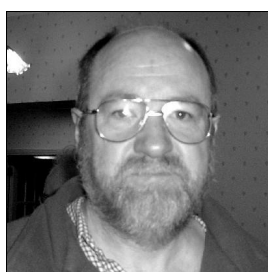
Martin EI4IJ



Padraic EI5IX



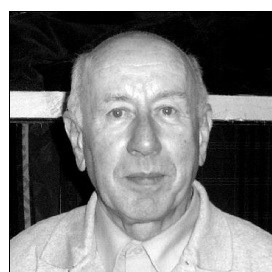
Michael EI6HY



Fergus EI6IB



John EI6IR



Sean EI7CV



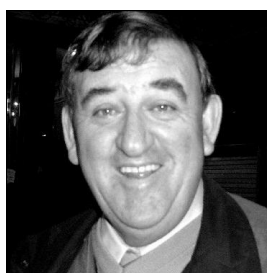
John EI7FAB



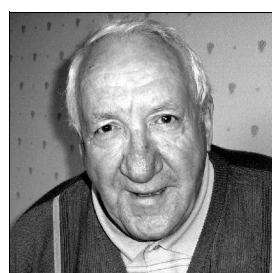
John EI8DL



Brian EI8IU



Alan EI8EM



Ben EI8EQ



Martin EI8GP



Gerry EI9DZ



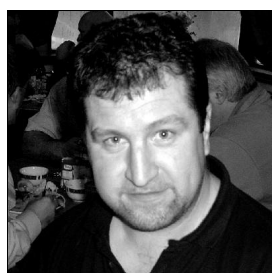
Dave EI8FBB



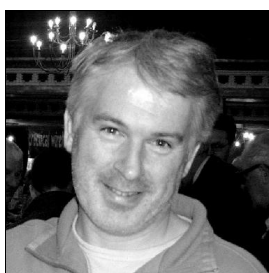
Tony EI9IL



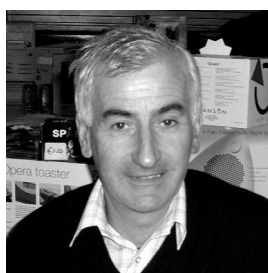
Thos EI2JD



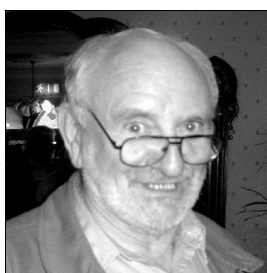
Nicki EI9JF



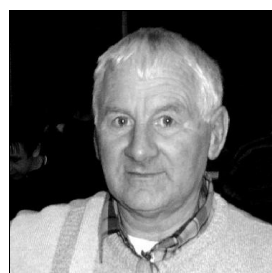
Joe EI3IX



Jimmy Towey



John EI6DN



Ben EI4IN

Limerick Radio Club go Portable in Co. Tipperary

A report from Michael Watterson EI9FEB

In conjunction with the Kerry Amateur Radio Groups Field Day and the second AREN training net on January 15th, members of Limerick Radio Club decided to operate a portable station from the top of Tountinna in the Arra Mountains. The following is a report on that activity by Michael EI9FEB.

Well it didn't quite go as I planned Saturday morning :-
However it was a valuable experience.

I had decided I wanted to find out how much work it was to setup "in the field".

Batteries only last a while unless charged, which means the car engine or a generator, assuming as much fuel as needed. I borrowed a Generator on Wednesday but the QRM from it was S9+ and voltage was 218 to 259! Apart from anything else my rig only runs from 220V AC. If a "linear amp" (800W etc) is deployed, it likely needs a mains supply. Avoid "Blackspur 100" blue petrol tank 2 stroke generators!

Howard EI5EG offered to bring one when I met him on Thursday after the Club meeting (a professional Briggs & Stratton 3KVA). Also Brendan EI0CZ offered to bring a really long extension lead...

I built a new "NVIS" aerial with ferrite ring matching / balun transformer and tested it Friday night.

Checked out my vertical dipole.

So by 0910 at Tountinna I had the long wire up after leaving house at 0755. But no Howard or Brendan.!

I had told Brendan the WAI would not be activated till 1100. Howard thought I was starting at 1000!

Anyway, the generator arrived and did work but kept cutting out. Brendan arrived and the long extension lead to plug socket in the repeater "shack" was deployed!

Did I mention that the cloud base was about 1300 feet and Tountinna is about 1500 feet? Or that the wind was 20 to 40 mph? Raindrops like ball bearings!
So thought of setting up the VHF mast and aerial for 144.300 SSB was dropped.

80m was "QRM free" with a gentle hiss at full gain allowing perfect copy from stations not even moving the needle.
All of the AREN net was 55 to 59+ with only one weak station I could not copy (the wind and car heater was too loud!).

So what valuable lessons have I learned?

:: Generators are a good idea, but even "decent ones" need checking regularly on light and heavy load for at least an hour.

:: Cheap generators are no use for radio. Risk of equipment damage and too much QRM. The car engine produced some QRM, the Briggs and Stratton generator none at full gain on 80m.

:: Give all instruction in writing, not verbally.

:: What seems a mild breeze at ground level can be lethal on a mountain.

Without car heater and "long johns" and good waterproof gear

you could quickly be an exposure case.

I must purchase waterproof legging to match my decently weather proof coat.

About 1340 hrs the wind blew the top half off the vertical dipole! (It just needs an N-Connector replaced. It is the one I used at Tarbert. (Lighthouse activation). Brendan brought his but it was far too windy for the three of us to even think of trying to get it up).

On the positive side:

Raised awareness on AREN (and also HF field days inspired by KARG).

Despite all the problems and somewhat more "bracing" weather than at the bottom of Arra Mountains, I did get on the air before the net ended! (FT101ZD, 60ft end fed wire 6ft above ground, at edge of VERY steep slope).

No-one actually was injured or suffered from exposure. Three operators, with two rigs were operational.

Visited by two other wireless experimenters at lunchtime (Tony EI9IL and Ger EI6DP)

(Quote: "Just to see if you really are here!")

Hopefully AREN will have two or three more members in Limerick soon.

Howard is going to check out the generator and next time it should be fine!

After the AREN net Brendan, Howard and I had various contacts on 80m, 40m and 20m using SSB and CW.

Successful reception was achieved on 20m of PSK31 and SSTV, using the laptop and FT101ZD but no confirmed contacts. The station closed at about 1400 hrs.

Ron EI2JP activating 7.068 was copied on the vertical dipole but no copy on the long wire "NVIS". However he was 56 on 80m during the AREN net with the FT101ZD and the end fed "long wire".

Best quality "brassed" PVC covered steel "Tesco" washing line was used.

73 de EI9FEB

Michael Watterson

11 Laurel Park,

Patrickswell, Co. Limerick

+353 61-215842, Mobile 085 740 3830

Trophy Returns

Trophy winners at last year's Annual General Meeting in Limerick are asked to ensure that the trophies are returned to Peter Grant EI4HX immediately.

Please pass them to any committee member or mail them to

Peter Grant,
37 Glenmore Park,
Dundalk,
Co. Louth.

DUBUS Magazine

The late Albert EI6AS had been the Irish distributor for the DUBUS Magazine (a quarterly magazine for VHF, UHF and Microwave) for many years.

Now we have the problem that we don't know who got the magazines from him. So we will not be able to send anything out in the future.

Existing DUBUS subscribers should get in contact with Joe DL9HCZ at the address below.

Joe, DL8HCZ/CT1HZE
DUBUS Magazine
info@dubus.de

Irish, Tier 2 Automatic Position Reporting System (APRS)

At approximately 2245 UTC on the 17th of January, an Irish, Tier 2 Automatic Position Reporting System (APRS) server was brought online.

See <http://ireland.aprs.net:14501> for connection details.

Tier 2 servers are deployed to take the load off the core servers as several Gigabytes of packets are seen by the core servers every day.

The server was set up by John, EI7IG, using spare server capacity of the Telecommunications Software & Systems Group in the Waterford Institute of Technology.

APRS is a registered trademark of Bob Bruninga, WB4APR.

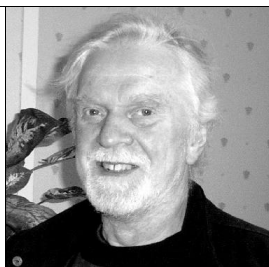


John EI7IG

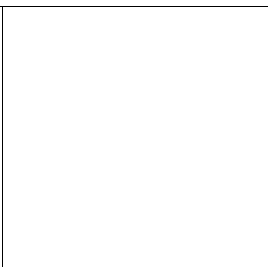
Pictures from the Mayo Rally held on November 21st 2004



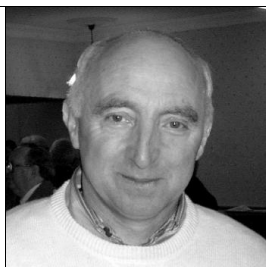
Paddy EI4DC



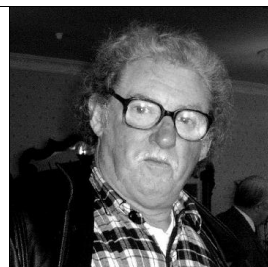
Michael EI4AL



Louis EI5EC



Michael EI4AZB



Seamus Dolan



Mark EI6JK



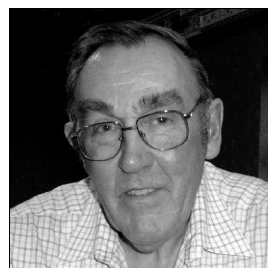
Pat EI5IS



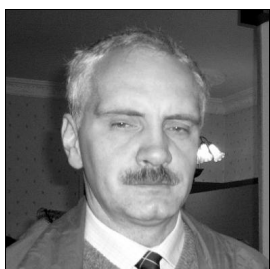
Terry EI9IW



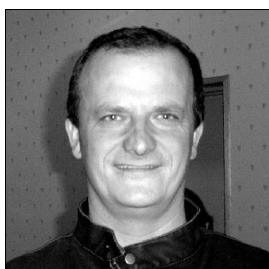
Rob G3XFD/EI5IW



Terry GI3USS



Jan EI9JN/SP9JZT



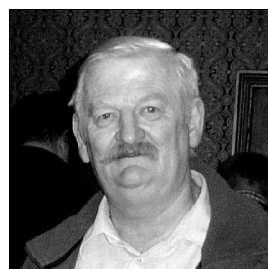
Adam EI5JQ



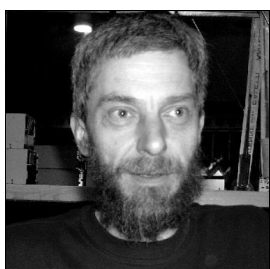
Damian EI2HG



Stan EI7DGB



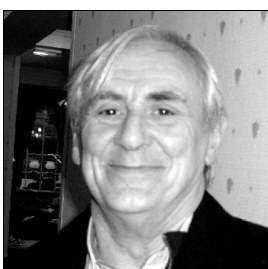
Bert EI4ELB



Michael EI3HY



Tony EI3IT



Matt EI3ETB



Andree from Cellcom



Billy EI7FJ

How To Work Split

SPLIT ! SPLIT ! UP ! UP ! we've all heard it screamed on 14.195 , so just how do we do it. Here's how.....

Working Split Frequency

When you listen UP in the split frequency range DX is working, you will hear the most amazing thing. Even though DX is working someone, hundreds of stations are still calling him -- right on top of the QSO and all over the listening range. This leads me to believe that some operators may not be familiar with working split.

If you're having trouble getting through to DX, try these tips for working split:

1.) As soon as DX sends another station's callsign and signal report, **STOP SENDING YOUR CALL!** Don't send your call again until that QSO is finished (DX sends TU, QRZ, etc.)

2.) If you happen to be on the same frequency as the station DX called, and you send your call, you will simply delay the QSO in progress and will not help yourself at all. DX will not change his mind about working the station he responded to just so that he can work you. It is extremely doubtful that DX will remember your callsign and work you after he finishes the current QSO.

More likely, he will QSY to get away from the obnoxious QRM.

3.) If you are not on the same frequency as the station DX called, and you send your call, he obviously won't hear it. You're wasting your time and the life of your finals. You are also causing QRM.

4.) Instead of calling on top of someone else's QSO, or heating up the atmosphere by calling where DX is not listening, you will find it much more productive to scan the frequency range for the station DX called. If you hear it, you will know where DX is listening!

5.) When the QSO is finished, try calling on the frequency where DX is listening, or just up or just down from there. Many DX ops will do one or two QSOs, then slide up or down the band when the listening frequency gets too crowded to pick out calls. Some ops have a pattern, so if you listen you just might figure it out and be calling exactly where he is listening!

6.) If DX says he is working by call districts only, and he asks for a number other than yours, **DON'T SEND YOUR CALL!** In addition to being rude, it's futile -- he simply will not work you.

7.) If you can't copy DX because the signal is too weak, **DON'T SEND YOUR CALL!** You can't possibly work him if you can't hear him.

8.) The best thing you can do is **LISTEN, LISTEN, LISTEN.** Make sure you listen carefully between transmissions so you will hear when DX starts to work a station (and stop transmitting when he does -- it might be you!). Listen up and down the split frequency range to find the station DX is working. **LISTEN, LISTEN, LISTEN.** Listen to DX to hear instructions (and follow them.) Believe it or not, you will work more DX by listening than by transmitting (yes, you do have to transmit, but timing is everything in this game.)

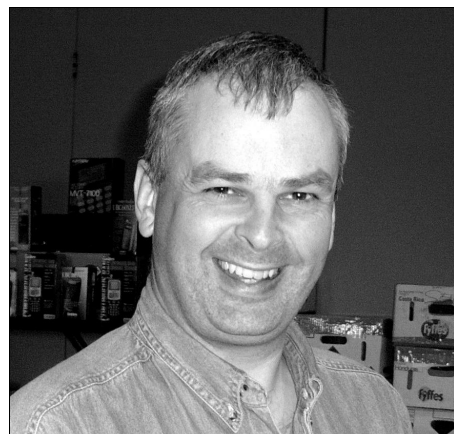
9.) The worst thing you can do is transmit on DX's frequency. **NEVER, EVER** transmit on his frequency. Period. Never. Really, I mean it. Resist the temptation to shoo people off his frequency or yell at the cops. Probably less than 10% of the QRM comes from people inadvertently starting a QSO or transmitting on the wrong VFO. We could all live with occasional disruptions like that.

If the QRM is intentional, it's not going to stop when you yell (in fact, that will cause more QRM because they're trying to get a rise out of you.)

In other words, there is never a justification for transmitting on DX's frequency. Never!

Next time you feel you must transmit on his frequency -- **DON'T TOUCH THAT DIAL!**

For most of you, it makes sense that QRM on DX's transmit frequency is a bad thing. But consider that QRM on his listening frequency is a bad thing too. Continuing to call when DX is in QSO causes QRM that interferes with DX working stations as quickly as possible (thereby reducing his chances of working you) and makes it hard for others to try to follow his listening pattern. Make the most of every transmission by thinking about the right time and the right frequency for doing it."



Peader Rosney EI2IF

Apologies to Peader for publishing his picture without identification in the last issue.

Peader has moved house and should be more active on the bands from now on putting very rare County Offaly on the air.

Mayo Radio Experimenters Network

The results of the 2004 Mayo Radio Experimenters Members' first Annual Competition were announced at club's January meeting.

The results were calculated from the monthly competitions and eleven amateurs made the final list.

John Corless, EI7IQ was the outright winner having won the monthly competitions in January, April, May, July, August, October and November.

June winner, John Browne, EI7FAB, was second overall and Brendan Minish EI6IZ finished third.

The club, one of the most active in the country, has organised competitions for its members again in 2005. Details of the competitions, other features and radio news, are published in the club newsletter which members receive monthly.

The full results list for the 2004 competition are as follows:

- 1 John Corless, EI7IQ
- 2 John Browne, EI7FAB
- 3 Brendan Minish, EI6IZ
- 4 Jimmy Kelly, EI2GCB
- 5 John McAndrew, EI3JM
- 6 Mike Hayes, EI2EO
- 7 Terry Ebdon, EI9IW
- 8 Dermot Adams, EI7IX
- 9 Jarlath Cunnane, EI9FYB
- 10 John McDonnell, EI6IR
- 11 Padraic Baynes, EI9JA

The QSL Bureau Works! QSL Card arrives almost 21 years later.

Many operators complain about the delays experienced in getting return QSL cards via the bureau.

Pictured below is an extract from the logbook of Mike Power EI7AH from Waterford and also a QSL card received by him on November 30th 2004.

A look at the logbook will show that the QSO took place on February the 14th 1984 and the card was sent to the bureau shortly afterwards.

The return card arrived just 20 years and nine months after the QSO. Is this a record?

Please let us know if you have a better story about the QSL bureau.

RADIO STATION EI-7AH LOG

38.

DATE	TIME (GMT)		FREQ MHz	MODE	STATION CALLED/WORKED	REPORT		QSL		REMARKS
	START	FINISH				SENT	RCVD	SENT	RCVD	
14/2/84	14.25	14.28	21.334	SSB	N44 VYN	5/3	4/4		ASA	Lee - Sophia, Nth. Coast, 100 miles
"	14.39	14.36	21.325	"	K4 GLY	5/5	5/5	✓	✓	Per - Anders, Denmark
"	14.50	15.00	14.260	"	OZ 6 PP	4/2	5/4	✓	✓	Suggs - GREIZ - DDR
"	15.00	15.08	14.260	"	Y24 JJ	5/5	5/5	✓	✓	Anett - TAVENPAA, Helsinki
"	15.09	15.13	14.260	"	OH2 BYX	5/7	5/8	✓	✓	Mike - PLANO, Dallas, TEXAS
"	16.05	16.07	28.569	"	KL7 DE/P5	5/5	5/4	✓	✓	Mike - Hull
"	22.05	22.09	3.727	"	G3 AMW	5/5	5/5			Dave - Anfield, Huddersfield
"	22.09	22.18	3.727	"	G4 TGB	5/7	5/5			Paul - Hunsdon, Bedfordshire
"	22.18	22.27	3.727	"	G4 JFT	5/7	5/5			Alfred - Hampton, London
11/3/84	11.06	11.17	7.056	"	G3 XHK	5/7	5/5			David - London
"	11.19	11.32	7.056	"	G2 DOJ	5/7	5/5			Jen - Reading
"	11.33	11.48	7.056	"	G4 EVG	5/7	5/5	✓	✓	Tony - Rufford, Liverpool
"	11.50	11.55	7.055	"	E16 AN	5/5	5/5			Brendan - Rathfriland, DU
"	11.55	12.05	7.055	"	E17 EZ	5/7	5/5			Pat
12/2	11.42	12.10	7.068	"	E1 2CZ	5/5	5/5			Frank
"	"	"	"	"	E1 5R	5/5	5/5			Gerhard - m. Hannover
13/2	11.15	11.26	14.246	"	DJ1 FQ/M	5/5	5/5	✓	✓	Kevin - Elmwood
"	"	"	"	CW	E1 7FE					George - Brechin
14/2	12.25	12.37	7.051	SSB	G4 PIV	5/5	5/7			Bob - Strand, Scotland
"	12.40	12.57	7.051	"	G4 RNK	5/5	5/5	✓	✓	Wentworth, West Sussex
"	16.25	16.39	14.274	"	Y21 HA	5/5	5/5	✓	✓	Edmund - m. Roskilde
"	16.40	16.52	14.260	"	SM5 AY	5/7	5/5	✓	✓	Roy - Taby, Stockholm
"	16.53	16.54	14.260	"	DL2 OZ	5/5	5/5	✓	✓	Peter -
15/2	11.10	11.15	7.042	"	GI4 CPH (ONTFF)	5/5	5/5			Tim - m. Bedford (USA)
"	11.20	11.40	7.042	"	ON5 YK	5/5	5/5	✓	✓	Albert - Ypres, Belgium
"	15.20	15.22	21.288	"	K1 HKI	5/7	5/5	✓	✓	Bob - Brookfield, Vermont
"	16.20	16.40	21.370	"	KE1 X	5/7	5/7	✓	✓	Burt - Elliot, Maine
14/2	14.40	14.42	21.301	"	OH2 BVK	5/5	5/5	✓	✓	Richard - New York
"	14.43	15.00	21.373	"	WB2 GKB	5/5	5/5	✓	✓	Richard - New York

* Reply QSL card received via bureau 30th Nov. 2004

Cork – European Capital of Culture 2005

The Capital of Culture Award

To celebrate Cork City's status as European Capital of Culture during 2005, Cork Radio Club and the East Cork Radio group have introduced the Cork Capital of Culture Award. The award is available to all radio amateurs and shortwave listeners and to qualify you need to work or hear the special event station EI05CCC (Echo India Zero Five CCC) and one other from the following three callsigns: EI5CRC, EI1C or EI7M.

Contacts must be made during 2005.

QSL cards are not required for the award.

All QSOs can be confirmed via the bureau and for direct cards see QRZ.com

All four callsigns will be activated regularly during the coming year.

Claims for the award should be submitted to Rev. Fr. Finbarr Buckley, "Curraghmore", Cherry Grove, Model Farm Road, Cork.

The cost of the award is €5.00 or 8 IRCs.

Enquiries to Finbarr EI1CS at buckleyf1@eircom.net

Aidan Murphy EI5HW Published in QST

Aidan Murphy EI5HW has a 3 page article published in the February issue of *QST*.

QST Magazine, the journal of the ARRL the National Society in the U.S., is the most widely read Amateur Radio publication in North America.

The article is titled 'A LIGHTER THAN AIR FLIGHT OF FIRSTS, An Amateur Radio hot air balloon adventure from the Emerald Isle'

6 full colour photographs will also feature in the spread.

Aidan's article was accepted for publication by *QST*'s Managing Editor Joel P. Kleinman, N1BKE over 4 months ago.



John EI7BA and Darrell AB2E

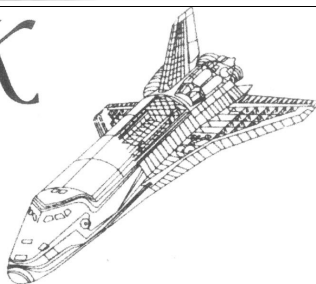
Darrell operated in the single operator all band section of the CQWW CW Contest last November using the callsign EI/AB2E from the EI7BA shack.

G4RNK

Robert J. Dodson

Coskenym
St Neot
Nr Liskeard
Cornwall
PL14 6NG

<http://www.ukcallsigns.co.uk>
email: nexgenuk.ltd@virgin.net



SENT VIA BUREAU - 14/2/1984 ; Received via bureau - 30/11/2004

DXCC Listings now available on the ARRL web site

The ARRL Web site now features up-to-date listings of DXCC awards earned. The new system shows every issued DXCC award known to ARRL's computerized DXCC system, with the exception of individual standings for 5BDXCC.

ARRL Membership Services Manager Wayne Mills, N7NG, says the web site listing is even more complete than the DXCC Yearbook ever was, since the printed list did not list inactive band-accounts for the previous year.

"This will list everything and everybody," Mills emphasized. "The new system makes available a separate listing for each DXCC award type--band or mode." Even more important, Mills notes, is that it essentially renders obsolete the manually generated monthly and yearly reports. "Under the new system, DXCC listings will be updated daily," he emphasized.

The DXCC standings of all ARRL members will remain in dark type. Call signs of non-members who have not submitted credits for 10 years or more are in grayed-out type.

Each listing by band or mode is complete in a separate Adobe PDF file. The largest listing (DXCC Mixed) now runs to more than 50 pages, but the size of the PDF file is only about 150 kbytes because of file compression. Printing format options include US letter-sized or ISO A4 paper.

The DXCC listings can be found at <http://www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc/#listings>.

Listed on the adjoining column are all the EI stations on the listings as of January 29th 2004.

Readers are reminded that by sending their logs electronically to the ARRL's Logbook of the World, credit can be got for any matched contacts and you will not need to send cards for the DXCC award. Further details in column three of this page.

There are no EI stations listed on the DXCC Challenge listings.

EI DXCC Listings (as at January 29th 2005)

Mixed

344	EI7CC	Peter Ball
339	EI2GS	Frank O'Brien
339	EI8H	Patrick Fagan
334	EI6FR	Declan Craig
324	EI6S	George McClarey
306	EI2HY	Anthony O'Rourke
262	EI2GX	Tony Stack
223	EI4BZ	Dave Moore
137	EI7BA	John Tait
128	EI8HA	Jim Murphy
107	EI8IU	Brian Canning
107	EI9HQ	Declan Lennon
105	EI2JD	Thos Caffrey
104	EI5GM	Jeremy Sheehan

Phone

343	EI7CC	Peter Ball
337	EI2GS	Frank O'Brien
328	EI8AR	Bro. John Shortall
320	EI6S	George McClarey
306	EI8EM	Alan Cronin
300	EI8AU	Bill O'Reilly (SK)
256	EI3GV	Brendan de hÓra
253	EI4GK	Sean Donelan
186	EI7II	Albert Kleyn
177	EI9FE	Mike Hoare
163	EI2CH	Gerry Morgan
166	EI7GL	John Desmond
144	EI4BZ	Dave Moore
114	EI4EX	Hugh McCormack (SK)
105	EI1CS	Rev Finbarr Buckley
101	EI3IP	Sean Ó Súilleabháin
102	EI9HQ	Declan Lennon

CW

294	EI7CC	Peter Ball
206	EI4BZ	Dave Moore
109	EI2IH	Hugh Galt
110	EI4HM	Don Walmsley
107	EI/GM4ARJ	JW Ferguson
105	EI7BA	John Tait
106	EI1DG	Patrick McGrath

40m

112	EI7GL	John Desmond
-----	-------	--------------

20m

106	EI3GV	Brendan de hÓra
-----	-------	-----------------

15m

104	EI3GV	Brendan de hÓra
-----	-------	-----------------

10m

128	EI4GK	Sean Donelan
113	EI7GL	John Desmond

6m

108	EI3IO	Dave Court
104	EI7GL	John Desmond
101	EI3EBB	Alan Foley

ARRL's Logbook of the World (LoTW)

ARRL's Logbook of the World (LoTW) system is a repository of log records submitted by users from around the world. When both participants in a QSO submit matching QSO records to LoTW, the result is a QSL that can be used for ARRL award credit.

To minimize the chance of fraudulent submissions to LoTW, all QSO records must be digitally signed using a digital certificate obtained from ARRL. Obtaining such a certificate requires verification of the licensee's identity either through mail verification (US) or inspection by ARRL of required documentation (non-US).

Software developed by ARRL can be used to convert a log file (in ADIF or Cabrillo file format) into a file of digitally signed QSO data, ready for submission to LoTW.

LoTW began operation on September 15, 2003.

Every **non-USA operator** requesting an initial, unsigned certificate for Logbook of the World must send a copy of his/her Amateur Radio operating authorization in addition to a copy of one other government-issued document indicating his/her identity. Such an additional document might be a driver's license, or the first page of a passport. (Identity documents will be destroyed after certificates are successfully issued.) **These documents must be sent via postal mail (to the ARRL HQ address), not email.** Using the postal mail for documenting an operator's primary callsign helps to protect your callsign as well as helping LoTW to authenticate its users.

Each **non-USA operator**, who already has a certificate, may request additional certificates for other callsigns, such as old calls or DXpedition calls, etc. No additional **identity documentation** is required, but for each additional certificate, the applicant must submit proof of operating authorization unless:

- *The operation takes place under CEPT or IARP conventions, or
- *The operation takes place under an agreement between two or more countries whereby one DOES NOT need to have an additional, written license or operating authority.

See www.arrl.org/lotw/ for all the necessary information.



Contest Corner

With
Dave EI4BZ
ei4bz@eircom.net

IRTS Contest Trophy Winners for 2004

Pete Daly Cup

CW Field Day Open EI7M

Paddy Smyth Cup

CW Field Day Restricted EI2SBC

Paddy Daly Microphone

SSB Field Day Open EI9E

IRTS SSB Shield

SSB Field Day Restricted EI2SBC

Thomond Shield

VHF Field Day Open EI7M

IRTS VHF Shield

VHF Field Day Restricted EI7DAR

Slievenamon Trophy

70 CM Activity in July EI2HI

IRTS DX Trophy

Leading EI in IOTA EI8IR

IRTS IOTA Trophy

Leading EJ in IOTA EJ2MT

Hal Hodgens Key

Top EI in IOTA CW 12 hr EI4CF

Tom Donelan Cup

Top EI in CQWW CW EI4DW

Spring Counties

High Power Fixed EI7IW
High Power/P EI9FVB
Low Power Fixed EI7HT
Low Power/P EI2JF
FM Only EI2JO

Autumn Counties

High Power Fixed EI4CF
High Power/p EI2WRC
Low Power Fixed EI7HT
Low Power/P EI4HS
FM Only EI4JL

Congratulations to all trophy winners
and we look forward to seeing them at
AGM in Limerick for the presentations.

Autumn Counties Contest Results

High Power Fixed

1	Niall Foley EI4CF	25	13	138	1794	GY
2	Thos caffrey EI2JD	29	12	135	1620	LH
3	Hugh O'Donnell EI2HI	37	12	112	1344	CK

Low Power Fixed

1	Tom McGrath EI7HT	24	7	68	476	DD
2	Paul Norris EI3ENB	17	8	48	384	KK

High Power Portable

1	EI2WRC	51	19	255	4845	WX
2	EI7T	47	15	146	2190	TY

Low Power Portable

1	John Kelly EI4HS	49	15	237	3540	CW
2	Joe Ryan EI7GY	29	14	165	2310	LM

FM Only

1	Mick Gorman EI4JL	33	16	145	2258	DD
---	-------------------	----	----	-----	------	----

Contest Calendar

February 2005

5/6th	0001-2359	10-10 Int. Winter Contest	SSB
5/6th	1800-1758	Mexico International Contest	RTTY
12/13th	0000-2359	CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest	RTTY
12/13th	1200-1200	Dutch PACC Contest	
12/13th	2100-0100	RSGB 1.8 MHz Contest	CW
19/20th	0000-2400	ARRL International DX Contest	CW
24th	2000-2130	RSGB Club Championship	CW
26/27th	0000-2359	CQ 160m Contest	SSB

March 2005

5/6th	0001-2359	ARRL International DX Contest	SSB
19/20th	1200-1200	Russian DX Contest	
26/27th	0001-2359	XQWW WPX Contest	SSB

28th 1400-1600 (L) IRTS 2m Counties Contest

April 2005

2/3rd	1500-1500	SP DX Contest	
2/3rd	1600-1600	EA RTTY Contest	RTTY
9/10th	0700-1300	JIDX Contest	CW
9th	1500-1859	EU Spring Sprint	SSB
16th	0001-2359	Holyland DX Contest	
16th	1500-1859	EU Spring Sprint	CW
16/17th	1200-1200	YU DX Contest	
23/24th	1200-1200	SP DX RTTY Contest	RTTY

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South Dublin AGM

A new date has been set for the Annual General Meeting of South Dublin Radio Club.

The AGM will now take place on Tuesday 8th March at the club QTH, at 8.00 pm.

Please note the change from the previously announced date.

Outgoing QSL Bureau

Please mail your cards directly to the Outgoing Bureau Manager

Anthony Baldwin EI8JK,

Rathlin, Kilcrohane,

Co. Cork.

ei8jk@amsat.org

**Please do not send outgoing cards to
P.O. Box 462.
It leads to extra expense and delays.**

Award Nominations

The Society is seeking nominations for the following awards to be presented at the forthcoming AGM in Limerick.

The Arup Cup, Collins Cup and Conway Cup for services to the hobby or to the society.

Nominations to Peter Grant EI4HX, chairman of the awards sub-committee.

Construction Trophies

Entrants for the The Folan Shield and Freeney Trophy for home construction should present their entries by 1300 on the day.

SWL Trophy

Applicants for the SWL Trophy should submit their claim to the contest Manager by March 1st.

Members Advertisements

Wanted: Datong D70 Morse Tutor BC453 Command Receiver RF27 VHF convertor Operating Manual, FTV901 Transvertor and YO901 Multiscope for Yaesu FT101ZD.

Any Offers:

"Television" magazine 1978 to 1992 plus numerous TV service sheets. Also vintage test gear - Solartron CD513 5" oscilloscope, 30 valves, service manual, and Airmec 29B frequency counter with Nixie tubes, crystal oven.

Chris ei9czb@eircom.net or 068-22274 after 1800.

For Sale:

2m KLM 22c and 70cm KLM 40CX beams.
Good condition €150.00
Contact Nicky EI3JB on 087-6476141

For Sale: Brand new boxed 17" TFT Monitor ... €250.00
128 MHz USB Memory Stick ... €20.00
Brain EI8IU 086-2514822

For Sale: Yaesu FT 2800M. 2m mobile, 65 watts... too large for new car. ... €220.00
2m brand new mag-mount with 1/4 and 1/2 wave whips.
Wanted: Yaesu FT 90R.
Mick EI5DCB 051-873310

For Sale: Nine x three metre lengths of 15" galvanised triangular tower. Each section weights about 50Kgs. Built in ladder €500.00 o.n.o
Contact P.J. on 086-8317807 or email Coylepj@eircom.net

For Sale: FT101ZD Mk3 with FM; SP901 Speaker; FC902 ATU; FL2100Z Linear Amplifier.
FT726R , 2m + 70cms, 6m. + satellite facility.
FT480R 2m all mode mobile.
All in everyday use, well maintained and serviced .
Offers by e-mail. I will be at the Phoenix Rally and the Limerick rally.
Peter Grant EI4HX
ei4hxperimental@eircom.net

For Sale:

Yaesu FTC 1045 2 ch. UHF commercial
Yaesu FTC 545LI 1 ch UHF commercial
Matching AC power supply for each.
Service manual/alignment data
Price ... €110.00 the lot.
Free; Approx. 100 RadCom magazines. Must collect.
Sean Carvin EI2CR QTHR 01-8107383

For Sale: Complete NOAA polar Weather Station. Everything you need. 3 Months old.
Computer two months old. 2 year guarantee left. Can be seen working.
2 House phones with caller display, Boxed as new.
Sharp Fax machine with spare roll of paper. In p.w.o.
Digital/Analogue Scout. Boxed, as new.
Weather Satellite Handbook. 5th edition. As new.
Please call 061-397004

**Members
advertisements
are free**

Irish Radio Transmitters Society

Annual Dinner

Saturday March 12th

Greenhills Hotel, Limerick.

Tickets €30.00

from Paul Kirkby EI6FE

061-360122

Hosted by Limerick Radio Club

**South Eastern
Amateur Radio Group
Annual General Meeting**

8.00 p.m.

Wednesday 23rd February 2005 in the
Roanmore Social & Sports Club,
Cleaboy Road, Waterford.

Visitors are Welcome.

Radio and Electronics Trade Fair 05

13th March 2005

Greenhills Hotel, Ennis Rd., Limerick

Admission €6.00

Doors Open 1100

Computers

YAESU



Spot Prize

FT 817 HF/VHF/UHF
Transceiver.
Tickets On the Day

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SPOT PRIZE
BHI DSP Products:
NES10-2 Speaker



Long Communications

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ICOM

Gadgets

LINEAR **AMP** UK



Cellcom Ireland Ltd.



Spot Prize
ICOM IC R5 Receiver



Spot prize tickets available on the day



IRTS AGM
1430

Limerick Radio Club

www.qsl.net/ei4lrc for more info.



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Greenhills Hotel,
March 13th.

IC 7800



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